THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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'JUDICIARY WORKING UNDER GREAT STRESS DUE TO COVID'

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana said on Thursday that the coronavirus has impacted SC judges and Registry officials

100 JUDGES, 2,700 JUDICIAL OFFICERS INFECTED

At least 100 high court judges and over 2,700 judicial officers have tested positive for the virus, the CJI said, adding that three HC judges and 34 judicial officers have lost their lives. In the SC, around 800 Registry staff, six Registrars and 10 Additional Registrars were infected at different points of times. On Wednesday, Justice D Y Chandrachud had tested +ve

PLAN TO LIVE-TELECAST SC PROCEEDINGS

- CJI Ramana said he was actively considering the proposal to live-telecast the proceedings of the Supreme Court
- However, the CJI added that the programme will be rolled out only if there is a general consensus among his colleagues in SC
- The Gujarat High Court is already live-streaming its proceedings

37

THREE HC JUDGES AND 34 JUDICIAL OFFICERS SUCCUMBED TO THE VIRUS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Move on vax gap raises questions on timing

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

THE Union Government's decision to extend the gap between two doses of the Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks from the existing 4-8 weeks, following the recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI), has sparked off a debate amongst the medical fraternity, public health experts and also those who are closely following the vaccine availability and shortage in the country.

Many of them felt that the decision, coming at a time when several states are battling a shortage of vaccines, may be viewed as the government inability to tide over the vaccine shortage and create further confusion among people who have already taken the first dose of vaccine and are planning to get the second dose after a gap of four weeks.

"As a vaccinologist I know about vaccine responses. The first dose is a sensitising one and it can be boosted anytime within one year. But what I fail to understand is why this shortage? Didn't the government order enough vaccines earlier? Are they depending on the manufacturers? There has definitely been a mismatch in the government's planning of the vaccine administration," said Dr John Jacob, renowned virologist and former professor at CMC Vellore.

The experts, however, agree that there have been studies published in medical journals like The Lancet and real-life evidence, particularly from the UK, showing that the efficacy of the vaccine is higher when there is a gap of 90 days.

A senior doctor said, "I agree that some countries like the UK and Canada have done this, but why is it that our government didn't think of it earlier? Just a few days ago, they were speaking about the importance of taking the second dose."

CONTINUED ON: P5

Vaccine factsheet

DOSES RECEIVED/ PROCURED BY THE CENTRE

SOURCE	QUANTITY	STATUS
PM-CARES FUND	**6.6 crore** (Covishield 5.6 cr & Covaxin 1 cr)	Utilised in full
GAVI COVAX facility	**1 crore** (Covishield)	Utilised in full
Procured for phase II	**12 crore** (Covishield 10 cr & Covaxin 2 cr)	86% received, rest expected by May-end
Procured for phase III	**16 crore** (Covishield 11 cr & Covaxin 5 cr)	Supply beginning in May and ending in July
TOTAL	**35.6 crore** (Covishield 27.6 cr & Covaxin 8 cr)	

35.6 Cr vaccine doses procured so far

51.6 crore Add 16 crore doses that are in the pipeline under direct procurement by states & private hospitals and the total is 51.6 crore doses

BY YEAR-END DUE TO RAMPED UP PRODUCTION

Vaccines	Production / availability Aug-Dec
Covishield	75.0 Cr
Covaxin	55.0 Cr
Bio E Sub unit	30.0 Cr
Zydus CadilaDNA	05.0 Cr
SII -Novavax	20.0 Cr
BB Nasal	10.0 Cr
GennovamRNA	06.0 Cr
Sputnik V	15.6 Cr
TOTAL	216.6 Cr

DOSES DELIVERED/ TO BE DELIVERED TO THE STATES IN MAY

- Free doses supplied by Centre to states/UTs: 1.65 cr
- Free doses to be supplied by Centre to States/UTs: 2.35 cr
- Doses directly procured by states/UTs: 1.23 cr
- Doses directly procured by states/UTs & in pipeline: 1.27 cr
- Doses directly procured by private hospitals: 0.80 cr

Total: 7.30 cr

Devi Shetty to head K'taka task force on third wave, Prof Kang to advise on jabs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS if to make up for the apparent lack of preparedness in anticipating the severity of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Karnataka Government is forming teams and preparing strategies well ahead of a third wave. With experts suggesting that the third wave may hit the state between October and November, the government has constituted a task force that will be headed by eminent cardiologist and health entrepreneur **Dr Devi Prasad Shetty**. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Thursday announced that the task force will strategise the state's preparedness. The announcement comes even as the state is grappling to manage the current situation.

To give a fillip to its vaccination drive, that is moving at snail's pace due to shortage of vaccines, the government has decided to appoint Prof Gagandeep Kang, a prominent microbiologist from Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, who is part of various think tanks and advisory committees for the World Health Organisation. She has worked on the development and use of vaccines for rotaviruses, cholera, and typhoid, conducting large studies to define burden, test vaccines, and measure their impact.

"We are implementing robust strategies to fight this pandemic. Prof Gagandeep Kang will help the govt in formulating a vaccination strategy while the task force, headed by Dr Devi Shetty, will assist the government to prepare for the mitigation of a possible third wave," said Yediyurapppa. In a show of unity and attempt at being "transparent" in the measures taken to manage the pandemic, the CM, along with Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, ministers R Ashoka, Dr K Sudhakar and Arvind Limbavali addressed an hour-long press conference.

While the ministers reeled out numbers to suggest that there was no shortage of any resources - be it beds, Remdesivir, oxygen or ICU and ventilator beds - the attempt fell short of explaining the oxygen shortage which led to several deaths in the state. On two questions related to the Chamarajanagar incident, where 24 patients died within 24 hours, the CM said, "Since the matter is still being investigated, we will not make any comment until a final report is submitted." P3

Now, Covishield second dose only after 3-4 months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Thursday accepted a proposal by an expert panel to raise the gap between two doses of Covishield to 12-16 weeks, deviating from the European Union and the UK's suggestions for a 12-week interval between the two shots.

Till now, a gap of 6-8 weeks was recommended between two doses of this vaccine in India. Spain alone prescribes a gap of 12-16 weeks between two shots, though it administers the AstraZeneca vaccine only to the 60+ age group amid concerns that in rare cases, it triggers blood clots in younger people.

The Centre's announcement immediately triggered speculation of it being tied to vaccine shortage, but Dr V K Paul, who heads the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19, said the decision was based on science.

Real life data following mass vaccinations in the UK, said Paul, has shown that the larger gap between two doses of AstraZeneca vaccine raises its efficacy. The decision came after a recommendation by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC), which in turn relied on the scientific input by the Covid working group chaired by N K Arora.

The NEGVAC also suggested that those who have recovered from their Covid infection, should get the vaccine against the coronavirus six months after the recovery. The ministry is yet to formally accept the second recommendation.

The gap of 12-16 weeks for Covishield, originally developed by AstraZeneca-Oxford University and being manufactured by the Serum Institute of India locally has not been tested in clinical trials, experts pointed out.

THE BENEFICIARIES

Healthcare workers	1st dose	96,16,697
	2nd dose	66,02,553
Frontline workers	1st dose	1,43,14,563
	2nd dose	81,12,476
Age group 18-44 yrs	1st dose	39,14,688
Age group 45-59 yrs	1st dose	5,65,82,401
	2nd dose	85,14,552
Over 60 yrs	1st dose	5,42,32,598
	2nd dose	1,72,86,501
TOTAL		17,91,77,029

The NEGVAC endorsing a six month gap for Covid-19 vaccination following recovery from the infection is also being met with some skepticism. Just a few days ago, ICMR director general Balram Bhargava said those who have battled Covid-19 successfully, can get the vaccine six weeks following their recovery. "So far, I have not come across any scientific evidence which suggests that people who have had infection before should wait for six months for their shots against Covid-19," said immunologist Seyed Hasnain.

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

May 12 **17,72,261 doses**

May 13 **19,75,176 doses**

TOTAL: 17,91,77,029

NATIONWIDE	MAY 12	MAY 13
Fresh cases	3,48,421	3,62,727
Recoveries	3,55,338	3,52,181
Deaths	4,205	4,120

You (Centre) have been playing that irritating message on the phone whenever one makes a call... You are not vaccinating people but still say vaccination lagavaiye. What's the point of the message? - Delhi HC

DVS: Should we hang ourselves if vaccines are not available?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TWO days after the Karnataka High Court directed the Union Government to take up the issue of vaccine supplies with the manufacturers, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, **D V Sadananda Gowda** on Thursday retorted saying, "Should we hang ourselves if we cannot vaccinate people as directed by the courts?"

Addressing the media at Vidhana Soudha along with BJP National General Secretary CT Ravi, Gowda lashed out saying, "If hypothetically, the courts tell us tomorrow that we have to give so many vaccines and assuming that we are not able to do so, should we hang ourselves?" when asked about courts intervening in the vaccination issue. The usually smiling Sadananda Gowda's 'strong statement,' was perhaps and indicator of the pressure on the government to ensure adequate supplies at a time when there is a visible shortage of vaccines in the country. Asked about the shortage of vaccines, Gowda said, "We are working with good intentions and it is our endeavour that everyone in the country should be vaccinated."

Regarding the numerous complaints about all-round shortages and long queues to get vaccines, he said, "When we look at numbers, those getting vaccinated till April was very small," the Union Minister said. P5

FROM ACROSS THE STATE

5,93,078 TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

27.64% Positivity Rate | **1,27,668** Samples tested on Thursday

1,09,76,189 TOTAL VACCINATIONS

Nine villages in Khanapur taluk of Belagavi district have been sealed down amid rising Covid cases

Davanagere district facing an acute shortage of oximeters and inhalers

Fire and Emergency personnel sanitise entire villages in Koppal district, which have seen a surge in cases

STATEWIDE	MAY 12	MAY 13
Fresh cases	39,998	35,297
Recoveries	34,752	34,057
Deaths	517	344

EXPRESS READ

NHRC notice to Centre over bodies in Ganga

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission has issued notices to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, UP and Bihar, after receiving complaints about several bodies found floating in the Ganga in the two states. According to residents in Ballia district, UP, at least 52 bodies were seen floating at the Ujiyar, Kulhadia and Bharauli ghats. Similar reports of bodies floating in the river have come from Bihar.

Assam NRC: Coordinator seeks re-verification

New Delhi: Assam State NRC Coordinator Hitesh Dev Sharma has moved the SC seeking a comprehensive re-verification of the draft and supplementary list of NRC to fix glaring errors | P8

WITH THIS ISSUE
CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE
INDULGE
28 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

ISRAEL PUMMELS GAZA AS ITS TROOPS STAND BY

The hostilities between Hamas and Israel are escalating relentlessly even as mediators try to step in. Hamas sent a heavy barrage of rockets deep into Israel on Thursday as Israel pounded Gaza with more airstrikes and called up 9,000 more reservists, with the country's military talking of a possible ground attack. Meanwhile, Jews and Arabs are fighting in the country's streets. In the picture on the left, Israeli airstrikes hit a building in Gaza city. Above, an Israeli artillery unit at the border fires toward targets in the Gaza Strip | P9

Lab quality big hurdle for Covaxin mass production

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

AMID growing chorus for technology transfer to allow other vaccine makers in India mass produce Covaxin, the Centre on Thursday said the sticking point was the lack of sophisticated technological platforms to manufacture the jab.

This vaccine, which is an inactivated version of Covid-19 virus and requires live virus to be cultured, can only be processed in laboratories categorised as biosafety level 3 (BSL 3), stressed V K Paul, member, health, Niti Aayog, who also heads the national Covid-19 task force. Covaxin was developed by Bharat Biotech with support from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which shares its intellectual property rights. The government health research body had invested about ₹35 crore in its pre-clinical and clinical trials. At present, only Bharat Biotech is a BSL 3 lab in India.

"This suggestion (of technology transfer) has been welcomed by Bharat Biotech but it needs to be understood that Covaxin has been developed from inactivated SARS-CoV 2 and can only be developed at laboratories with BSL 3 standards, which none of the other companies in India have as of now," said Paul. P8

PRIMER ON BIOSAFETY LEVEL

A biosafety level indicates a set of biocontainment precautions required to isolate disease causing pathogens in an enclosed lab. The levels of containment range from the lowest biosafety level 1 (BSL-1) to level 4 (BSL-4). BSL 3 is appropriate for work involving microbes that can cause serious and potentially lethal disease via inhalation and requires certain features like special constructions and ventilation systems

GENDER SKEW

13,88,15,914 people took the jabs till recently

7,30,07,844 Of them are male

6,57,88,899 Of them are female

19,171 others too took the jabs

72,18,945 More males than females took the shot | P7

Chhattisgarh stops work on new Assembly, pressure on Centre to halt Central Vista

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

AMID Opposition pressure on the Centre to suspend the ₹20,000-crore Central Vista project till the pandemic is brought under control, the Chhattisgarh government appears to have done the right thing by nixing plans to build the new Assembly building at a cost of ₹245 crore.

On Thursday, the Congress-governed Chhattisgarh government cancelled tenders for the new Assembly building and halted construction works of all ongoing major projects. The state has also adopted stringent austerity measures, a government spokesperson said.

Consequently, the ongoing construction works for the new Raj Bhawan, Assembly House, Chief Minister's House, bungalows for ministers and senior officials, and the New Circuit House at the Nava Raipur capital city stand suspended.

The foundation-laying ceremony of these works was performed on November 25, 2019.

The Chhattisgarh government's decision comes a day after 12 Opposition leaders wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to halt the Central Vista project and use the money to the fund the fight against coronavirus.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court is hearing a petition seeking an interim stay on the project saying the construction workers are exposed to the deadly coronavirus on a daily basis during the peak phase of the pandemic.

ALMANAC TODAY
Friday: 14/05/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishala • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Thrutheeya 4.43 am
Nakshatra: Mrigashira 5.53 am • Moon in Mithuna Rashi • Rahukaala: 10.41 am to 12.16pm
Gulikakala: 03.24 pm to 04.59 pm • Yamaganda: 07.30 am to 09.10 am

WEATHER
MIN 23°C | MAX 33°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Cloudy

Sunrise 5.54 am
Sunset 6.37 pm
Moonrise 7.38 am
Moonset 8.51 pm

E-CITY TECH HUB ONLY IN NAME?

Residents around township decry lack of medical facilities amid the pandemic

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

"WE are the tech and industrial hub of Bengaluru only in name. In reality, our condition is pathetic. Even during the present Covid-19 second wave, we do not have a primary health centre (PHC), and have to go to Jigani, Anekal or Attibele for any medical aid," lamented Mani Rajan, a resident of a locality near the Electronics City Industrial Township Area (ELCITA).

Though Electronics City, which houses industries and tech offices, comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike limits, residents of villages around the township have to depend on Bommanahalli zone, Bengaluru South taluk, or even the Anekal panchayat for help. The nearest government or private hospital is around 4-7 km away from villages like Veerasandra, Hulimanagala, Doddatoguru and Konappan Agrahara.

During the first wave last year, many of the residents had requested the government to set up a temporary PHC, but nothing came of it, said Maneesh L, a resident of Veerasandra. "We relied on the war rooms in Anekal and Bommanahalli, and continue to do so this year too. We are worried because the government and doctors are saying that the situation will get bad."

Members of the township authority said that around 50,000 people reside around the area, but civil and medical infrastructure is lacking. "Residents require testing, triaging, vaccination, inquiry or even basic medical aid. We do get help from 1912, 108, Bommanahalli or Anekal taluk, but these are far off. There is a need for a centre in our neighbourhood, especially in this pandemic. We had proposed to set up a centre inside the township, but we lack space," a member said.

Compounding matters, there is confusion not just among citizens, but also officials as to which jurisdiction the villages come under. While the office of the Bengaluru Deputy Commissioner said that the villages fall under BBMP South limits, the BBMP joint commissioners of South and Bommanahalli zones said that the area comes under Anekal or Bengaluru Rural district limits, and not under them.

Bengaluru South tahsildar Shivappa H Lamani said that only some villages come under his jurisdiction and the rest are under the civic body.

No officials from Anekal panchayat were available for comment.

NEW PURPOSE

A Covid patient gets oxygen in a BMTC OxyBus stationed in front of Town Hall in Bengaluru on Thursday | SHRIRAMBN

Team of 50 doctors from Mumbai to soon help BBMP in triaging

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WITH the drastic surge in Covid cases resulting in increasing demand for medical staffers at triaging centres and Covid Care Centres, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and health department are now getting help from Mumbai. The need was felt after citizens complained on Thursday and after the government opened walk-in triaging centres.

A team of 50 doctors will soon land in the city to help the civic body in conducting triaging. They will not only share the workload, but will also train new recruits and staffers in triaging and medical care.

On Thursday, many people were shooed away by security guards at some centres and were told to come only with an appointment. In some others, people were sent away due to insufficient medical staff.

"A woman from a lower income group was sent away by a security guard at Navyashree International Hotel in Mahadevapura zone. She was told to take an appointment. The woman needed immediate medical help as her oxygen level was dropping. So, we, members of Whitefield and surrounding areas, are now pooling in resources to help her as she was put into a private hospital," said a member of Whitefield Rising.

A similar case was reported at HAL where a patient was sent away due to insufficient medical facilities. In East zone, patients were told to go back as staff at these centres said they did not have doctors and that people should come in only after taking an appointment.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta clarified that people need not take appointments for triaging. "Marshals will be deployed to ensure that there are no such incidents. Each centre has a doctor. Now more will be added. Retired doctors and final-year medical students are also being roped in. Once additional doctors come in, ward-wise CCCs and triaging centres will be opened up," he said.

State nod to ₹700 cr for RTE, schools say yet to get dues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru:

THE State has approved Rs 700 crore for RTE fee reimbursement to private unaided schools for the coming academic year. This comes in the midst of schools claiming that they are yet to receive RTE reimbursement dues from the department. The department gets the amount from the government.

The director of primary education said the funds will be released to all districts as and when received from the government to reimburse RTE fees to eligible schools.

Thus far, Rs 1,050 crore earmarked for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21 have already been utilised, the department said, despite claims by schools that RTE reimbursements of several schools are pending.

This includes Rs 500 crore earmarked in 2019-20 for 11,432 private institutions as reimbursement of fees of 5,06,694 students, and Rs 550 crore earmarked for 2020-21 for 11,386 private institutions for reimbursement of 4,75,083 students, which is said to be utilised fully.

As per a department circular, the claims of just 4,379 schools have been cleared, of 11,386 institutes, for the current academic year. As many as 2,891 schools are yet to submit claims, while claims of 1,453 schools are undergoing re-verification.

As many as 1,230 schools at the block education level, 1,193 at DDPI level, and 240 schools at CPI level have been under verification at their respective levels.

Meanwhile, the state has released Rs 100 crore as additional funds for RTE reimbursement for the month for March 2021, while Rs 76 crore was released from the state office directly to the accounts of 2,466 private institutes till date, and remaining funds will be released shortly to eligible schools as per norms, as per a circular by the education department.

Minister seeks action

The minister for primary and secondary education Suresh Kumar sought action against officials who have been withholding reimbursements from schools.

Clear claims

Officials have been asked to clear claims at the earliest, and release RTE reimbursement funds to eligible schools, as per instructions of commissioner of public instruction.

EXPRESS READ

Fire personnel avert tragedy after O_2 leak at hosp

Panic prevailed at Shreyas Hospital at Mahalakshmi Layout in the early hours of Thursday, after an oxygen plant sprung a leak. Police said some nursing staff noticed the leak and alerted the technical team. The police and fire and emergency services were called in, who brought the situation under control in a couple of hours, thus averting a tragedy. There were 32 patients in the ICU under oxygen support at that time. The staff panicked after noticing the leak, as there were no more cylinders left as replacements. **ENS**

Online booking to cremate deceased

To tackle the rush at crematoria, Principal Secretary Revenue Department N Manjunatha Prasad, on Thursday released a phone number, 8495998495, where people can call, SMS or WhatsApp to book an appointment for cremating their dear ones who died due to Covid-19. As per orders, once the call is made or message is sent, a message will be sent to the caller giving a token number and schedule. The time slot will be given and the caller should be at the crematorium 30 minutes before the slot. **ENS**

DOING THEIR BIT

City school teams up with hospital to launch oxygen buses

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

GREENWOOD High International School, in association with Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, is launching five buses which will provide free oxygen to people. The vehicles will be placed outside city hospitals to help those in dire need. Each bus can accommodate 12 patients at a time.

To access the free facility, a patient has to furnish a doctor's prescription or RTPCR report and a copy of his or her Aadhaar card. The patient's attendant is expected to provide these details and not the patient, said Dr Satish Jain, president, Maharaja Agrasen Hospital.

The initiative was inaugurated by Revenue Minister R Ashoka on Thursday.

The school has provided the bus and shared internal equipment cost too with the hospital such as gas cylinder, mask nasal cannula etc. All medical help will be provided by the hospital

Bijay Agarwal, Chairman of Greenwood High Int'l School, said, "When Dr Satish Jain (from Maharaja Agrasen Hospital) approached me with this idea, I was keen to be part of this initiative. The first bus will hit the road today (Thursday)."

Each patient will be able to use the oxygen for two hours and will also be given a free nasal cannula for the oxygen flow to be connected to the flow meter and regulator. We plan to see how this initiative goes for the next ten days and then we will scale up to 10 buses thereafter," Dr Jain said.

The bus that was operational on Thursday visited a hospital to help patients. Those who wish to avail of this facility can call the hospital's admin at: 09620304864

A free oxygen bus launched on Thursday

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

14th May: Venus, planet of love, is now in a very careful zone. No matter what our individual horoscopes, we have entered a period in which all emotional relationships should be handled with great attention to detail. Old-fashioned entertainment and conservative values will be in vogue, while revolutionary attitudes are out!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Confrontations at home will have a useful purpose if they help clear the air. In this sense an approaching clash with someone you live with is to be welcomed. However, you must remember that once you've made the peace, you'll have to keep it!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Venus, your planetary ruler, has been instilling a greater than usual sense of practical necessity into your affairs, yet as soon as you have settled one problem, another will arise. Hopefully, there's been a corresponding increase in your self-confidence, and every difficulty will be turned to your advantage.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Current stars could lead you in a number of directions although, in the build-up towards the next colourful, lunar picture, you will decide to drop or rearrange a number of commitments. How about indulging your charitable instincts? At home, listen to younger relations. They might have the best advice!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Get ready for a battle at work and take no nonsense from employers who think they have a hold over you. On the other hand, if you want to hang on to your present position, be firm and fair and don't let a clash of wills get out of control.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You have two choices: either you can press on with worldly ambitions, or you can develop the mystical interests which have always attracted you. There's an outside chance that you can combine the two. A cash crisis should now lie in the past, leaving you free to rearrange affairs to your advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
If your thoughts turn to money matters today, then all well and good. The more prepared you are, the better you'll be able to cope with any minor business crisis over the coming few days. Socially, your stars couldn't be better, although you're in danger of double-booking yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
It's make or break time in a professional relationship, and conditions at work may not be entirely to your liking. There's every reason to reach agreement on all issues as soon as possible, before partners or colleagues have time to change their minds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Secret fears may hold you back over the coming days, even though your worries are almost certainly groundless. If you acknowledge your lack of confidence and discuss the issues involved with partners, you'll do yourself a favour. Continue to press forward with travel plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Mars has been pressurising your eighth solar house, the part of your horoscope ruling financial speculation. The promised turnaround in your business situation may have failed to materialise, perhaps because the truth is that the situation is more complicated than you first thought.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
There's no point in going it alone over the coming month, even though partners will be impossibly demanding at times. Make a stupendous effort to make sure everyone is happy with your behaviour and wait for the awards and rewards to roll in about three months' time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
There'll be a chance to set the record straight, especially if a partnership has been causing you dissatisfaction. Your important task is to concentrate on what is best for the future, and that means facing up to a few tricky decisions. And about time too!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
As a Piscean you are well-known for your quiet and self-effacing habits. Perhaps it's now the time to show people more of the spontaneous, fun-loving side of your nature. And why not? After all, you have worked hard enough over the past few years. You deserve a break.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

I'M BACK, MARTHA. THE PARADE IS OVER
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SALUTE ME, AMOS
SORRY. AFTER REVIEWING TROOPS ALL DAY, MY HAND TENDS TO GET STUCK
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

3			2			1		
	5	4			1		3	
				3		7		8
1	2	6				4		
		9				2	6	3
5		8		6				
	1		4			5	7	
		3			7			9

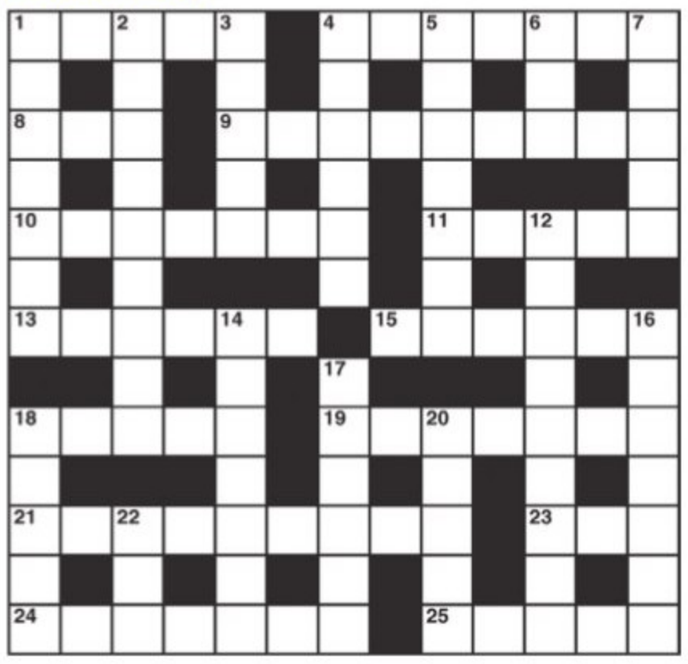
Hard: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

6	1	5	2	4	7	8	9	3
9	3	7	1	8	5	4	6	2
2	8	4	9	3	6	7	5	1
3	5	8	6	7	1	2	4	9
1	2	6	4	9	8	3	7	5
7	4	9	3	5	2	1	8	6
8	9	2	5	1	4	6	3	7
5	7	1	8	6	3	9	2	4
4	6	3	7	2	9	5	1	8

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 In fact a point of view (5)
4 Economy ruined Bert and Ivy (7)
8 Painting skill (3)
9 He has constructive ideas for the Arctic perhaps (9)
10 Repeat treat that is organised (7)
11 Though solid in form, they may have fragile footing (5)
13 Strange girl seen at the French bars (6)
15 Listen out for bays (6)
18 Ring for matches (5)
19 Metal cover protects the sewer (7)
21 Virtue an elegant horsewoman may have? (4,5)
23 A record climb (3)
24 Possibly sore after the finish; agree? (7)
25 This holds back movement on the western border (5)

DOWN

1 Afraid of a finger getting broken (7)
2 Girl collapsed in the race (9)
3 Rita changed a capital investment (5)
4 Better kind of helper (6)
5 One impression produced by journalists (7)
6 I again show anger (3)
7 Still ones found in Himalayan mythology (5)
12 Like the chairman, lost at sea (9)
14 Her tale is garbled but materially correct (7)
16 Jack may work on this ecclesiastical point (7)
17 Not likely to change horses (6)
18 Use one line or it may need two (5)
20 Two in difficulties being pulled along (2,3)
22 This hat is out of date (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Put-and-take, 8 To let, 9 Primula, 10 Attacks, 11 Break, 12 Sahara, 14 Demean, 17 Epsom, 19 Rake-off, 21 Clients, 22 Twine, 23 Secondhand.

Down: 2 Unlatch, 3 Attic, 4 Depose, 5 Amiable, 6 Exude, 7 Parking fee, 8 Transience, 13 Romantic, 15 Emotion, 16 Prison, 18 Skins, 20 Ketch.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VLAGE

AYRIH

SGPOIS

NCTEIE

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Yes. They approved it with live streaming.
I'm glad the town council decided to hold the parade.
3/17
THEY GOT TO HAVE THE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AFTER TOWN OFFICIALS GAVE THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Answer here:

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S: **Jumbles:** EJECT KNELT INFUSE LAGOON
ANSWER: It was clear that the two suspects weren't telling truth to the police and were — ALLIES

CM, ministers close ranks, give Covid mgmt 'transparent' touch

Queries on O_2 shortage deaths, cases, economic package for poor unanswered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa speaks at a meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday | EXPRESS

AT a time when murmurs of infighting between cabinet colleagues in Karnataka are doing the rounds, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, in a show of strength, held a press conference along with key members of the cabinet involved in managing the Covid-19 crisis. At the presser, which ran for a little more than an hour, Yediyurappa and his ministers laid out numbers after numbers and efforts taken to address concerns around the pandemic. While disbursing information on what the government had done, was doing and intends to do in future, many questions over oxygen shortage deaths, shortage of supplies, availability of beds and economic relief package to the vulnerable and poor, went unanswered.

"Government of India has increased allocation of oxygen from 965 MT to 1015 MT. In addition, we have received 40 tonnes of oxygen from Bahrain and another 100 tonnes from Kuwait. We brought 120 MT of oxygen from Jamshedpur via train. Action is being taken to increase oxygen generation capacity in the State, and be prepared for a potential third wave. We are setting up 127 Oxygen Generation Units in medical college hospitals, district hospitals and taluk hospitals," Yediyurappa said, but refused to comment on oxygen shortage deaths in Chamarajanagar district, or fixing responsibility for the same.

After Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan insisted that all concerns have been addressed and there was no shortage of resources, Yediyurappa said, "Did I say there was no shortage at all? All I am saying is that solutions are being streamlined," to a question why people are struggling to find medicines, beds and oxygen.

"Many private hospitals and private medical colleges were not giving up beds and our officials wore PPE kits and went on a reality check. We realised that hospitals were showing fewer oxygenated beds than they had, to avoid giving them under the government quota. We have annexed 2,216 oxygenated beds from hospitals and medical colleges so more patients can be treated," Revenue Minister R Ashoka said, adding that oxygen on wheels, oxygenated beds at Covid Care Centres, and a helpline for the final rites of Covid victims have been set up.

SUDHAKAR SHOULD QUIT OVER TRAGEDY: CONGRESS

MYSURU: A day after the inquiry committee report revealed that the death of 24 patients at Chamarajanagar District Hospital was due to lack of oxygen, KPCC working president R Dhruvanarayan urged the government to book Health Minister K Sudhakar and his officials for murder. Accusing Sudhakar of lying about the deaths at the district hospital, he said the minister should resign, owning moral responsibility, or CM B S Yediyurappa must drop him from the cabinet. He told the media here on Thursday that the report had exposed the failure of the district administration in handling the crisis.

HC seeks govt reply on aid to hospital victims

ENS @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Thursday sought a response from the State Government on paying compensation to the families of 24 patients who died at Chamarajanagar District Hospital after oxygen levels dropped, on the intervening night of May 2 and 3.

The State-level Covid Monitoring Committee of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, in its report submitted to the High Court on Wednesday, recommended paying of compensation.

A division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka said the State Government is liable to compensate the families, and it has to answer two issues raised by the report.

First, how will the State Government compensate families which have lost their dear ones due to its failure, the high court asked Advocate-General Prabhuling K Navadagi and Additional Advocate General Subramanya.Amicus curiae Vikram Huilgol drew the attention of the court to Supreme Court judgments on payment of compensation in such cases. The court noted that the apex court has held that the writ court can grant prayer for compensation under Article 226.

The second aspect of the report is on the government taking a decision on fixing responsibility on individual officers for their lapses. "We may note that the committee found the tampering of records of oxygen supply to the hospital in Chamarajanagar. Our order to keep records in safe custody by the chief secretary will continue," it said.

The committee headed by Justice AN Venugopala Gowda submitted its report to the High Court on Wednesday, stating that 24 patients died at the Covid-designated Hospital in Chamarajanagar due to lack of oxygen.

HDK slams Centre for shoddy oxygen supply

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FORMER CM **HD Kumaraswamy** on Thursday hit out at the Centre for failing to increase Karnataka's oxygen quota to 1,200 metric tonnes despite direction from court and questioned the BJP leaders' failure to take it up with the Centre.

"Despite the court's order to supply 1,200 MT of oxygen to Karnataka, the Centre gave the state only 120 MT. The Centre has displayed the height of partiality by providing 1,680 MT of oxygen to UP though it has fewer Covid cases compared to us," he said.

"Have Kannadigas become orphans in this federal structure? Why the Centre has so much contempt against Karnataka and Kannadigas? Is it because Karnataka has elected highest MPs for the BJP or is it an effort to project Yediyurappa as a villain?" the former CM tweeted.

Responding to the allegations, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said the total allocation to Karnataka is 1075 MT.

Strict curbs bringing cases under control in state: CM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

YEDIYURAPPA, along with ministers, insisted that all necessary requirements were being met. "In March last year, the Health Department had only 1,970 oxygenated beds, 444 ICUs and 610 ICUs with ventilators. Now the Department has more than 24,000 oxygenated beds, 1,145 ICU beds, 2,058 ventilated beds and 1,248 beds with HFNCs. Under the Medical Education Department, the number of oxygen beds has increased from 4,700 to 9,405. The number of ventilated beds are up from 341 to 646 and HFNCs from 15 to 570," he claimed.

They insisted that the government is tackling the increased oxygen requirement through a three-pronged strategy of increasing supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO), massive scaling up of localised generation capacity through oxygen generators, large-scale procurement of concentrators and cylinders. "In March, oxygen requirement was 100-150 MT per day, but consumption has increased manifold to 1,200 tonnes per day now. We have ensured there is no shortage anywhere," said Dr Ashwath Narayan. Even as citizens are struggling to find oxygenated beds, ICUs and medicines, the ministers insisted that more than the required supplies were available in the state.

On the vaccination front, the CM reiterated that priority will be given to those aged above 45 years and awaiting their second dose while those aged between 18-44 must wait their turn. Even as he spoke of plans to order five crore doses of vaccines, the State has so far only received 8.94 lakh doses, including 7.5 lakh of Covishield and 1.44 lakh of Covaxin, apart from the doses the Union Government sends for those above 45 years of age.

In a statement, Yediyurappa said Karnataka will chalk out a technology solution as an alternative to the CoWIN portal and relaunch the vaccination drive soon. "We imposed restrictions on April 24 and further made it more stringent from May 10. As a result of these measures, Covid-19 cases are coming under control. From the peak of 50,112 cases on May 5, the cases have come down to 39,900 on Wednesday. (In Bengaluru, 23,106 cases were reported on May 5, which has come down to 16,286 on Wednesday). In Bidar and Kalaburagi, which have seen an early peak, the number of cases and positivity is coming down faster," Yediyurappa claimed.

However, it should be noted that testing has reduced in the state. From two lakh tests per day, Karnataka has reduced it to 1.2 lakh per day while the positivity rate remains high, hovering around 28-30 per cent over the last week.

Bank of Baroda

Mayohall Branch (e-Vijaya Bank), PB No. 5118, Ground Floor, Public Utility Building, M G Road, Bangalore – 560 001.
Tel: 080-25588936 / 25587312 / 25594873,
E-mail: vjmayo@bankofbaroda.com

NOTICE TO BORROWER

To,
(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

1. Mr. G.P.Venkata Naidu & G. Lakshmi Narasamma, No.401, 4th floor, Arya Krishna Apartments, Kodigehalli Extension, Vidyaranyapura, Canara Bank Layout, BANGALORE – 560092 **(Borrower)**

Dear sir/s

Re: Credit facilities with our MAYOHALL BRANCH, BANGALORE in the name of Mr. G.P.Venkata Naidu & G. Lakshmi Narasamma.

1. We refer to our letter dated **20.06.2018 and RO sanction communication NO. ROBN/CN/GMLCC/AM/20422/30/2018-19 dated 19.06.2018** conveying sanction of various credit facilities and the terms of sanction. Pursuant to the above sanction you have availed and started utilising the credit facilities after providing security for the same, as hereinafter stated. The present outstanding in various loan/credit facility accounts and the security interests created for such liability are as under:

Nature and type of facility	Limit (Rs)	Rate of Interest (at present)	O/s as on 31.03.2021 (inclusive of interest upto 31.08.2020)	Security agreement with brief description of securities
Term Loan(V-Rent) A/c. No. 73890600000505 (114608381000017)	8,05,00,000/-	MCLR+ 3.5 = 12.15%	Rs.8,52,29,270.00 Plus interest from 01.09.2020To till closure of loan	***mentioned below

*** **Assignment of lease rent recievables.**

***All that piece and parcel of Converted Land (ALN(LAY) SR237/2008-09, SY No. 55/6, 54/2, 54/1 & 55/7, BBMP Khatha No.762/54/1, 54/2/55/4, 7 in the name G.P. Venkata Naidu situated at Jakkuru village, Yelahanka Hobli Bengalore – 560063 total land Measuring 28.5 guntas (7 guntas in Sy. No.55/6. 9 guntas in Sy.No.54/2, 1 guntas in Sy. No.54/1 and 11.5 guntas in Sy. No.55/7 total 28.5 guntas) i.e. 31036.5 sq. feet and RCC building consisting of Ground floor, First floor, Second floor, Third floor and terrace floor total built up area is 56958 sq. ft. East :Remaining portion of Sy. No. 55/6, 55/7, & 54/2, West : Remaining portion of Sy. No. 55/6, 55/7, & 54/2, North : Land belongs to Devaraj, Ramanna, T S Krishnaiah, Ramakrishna, Narayan & Gopal, South : Sy. No. 53 & Land belonging to N Hanumaiah.

2. In the letter of acknowledgement of debt dated **30.03.2019** you have acknowledged your liability to the Bank to the tune of **Rs.816.09 lakhs** as on **30.03.2019** The outstandings stated above include interest upto **28.02.2019**.
3. As you are aware, you have committed defaults in payment of interest on above loans/outstandings for the month ended **31.08.2020** and thereafter. You have also defaulted in payment of instalments of term loan/demand loans which have fallen due for payment on **31.08.2020** and thereafter.
4. Consequent upon the defaults committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non-performing asset on **29.12.2020** (mention date of classification as NPA) in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines. In spite of our repeated requests and demands you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon.
5. Having regard to your inability to meet your liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned in para 1 above, and classification of your account as a non-performing asset, we hereby give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the Bank aggregating **Rs. 8,52,29,270.00 (Rupees Eight crore fifty two lakh twenty nine thousand two hundred seventy only), plus interest from 01.09.2020 plus applicable charges** as stated in para 1 above, within 60 days from the date of this notice. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest till the date of payment, we shall be free to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which please note.
6. Please note that, interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 above for each credit facility until payment in full.
7. We invite your attention to sub-section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13(13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.
8. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender/private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.
9. Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- M.B.RAJU,
Asst. General Manager
Authorised Officer.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 27.04.2021

Bank of Baroda

Mayohall Branch (e-Vijaya Bank), PB No. 5118, Ground Floor, Public Utility Building, M G Road, Bangalore – 560 001.
Tel: 080-25588936 / 25587312 / 25594873,
E-mail: vjmayo@bankofbaroda.com

NOTICE TO BORROWER

To,
(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

1. M/s. Sai Automobiles, Prop: G. Jayaprakash, S/o G.P.Venkata Naidu, No.158/F, Cantonment, BELLARY, KARNATAKA. **(Borrower)**

Dear sir/s

Re: Credit facilities with our MAYOHALL BRANCH, BANGALORE in the name of M/s. Sai Automobiles.

1. We refer to our letter dated **30.03.2019 and RO sanction No. ROBN:CW:RODGMLC:RGK:15895/78/2018-19 dated 28.03.2019 (for CCH a/c.) and dated 28.03.2017 and RO sanction No. ROBN:CW:RLCC:KR:14582:191 dated 27.03.2017 (for Term Loan)** conveying sanction of various credit facilities and the terms of sanction. Pursuant to the above sanction you have availed and started utilising the credit facilities after providing security for the same, as hereinafter stated. The present outstanding in various loan/credit facility accounts and the security interests created for such liability are as under:

Nature and type of facility	Limit (Rs)	Rate of Interest (at present)	O/s as on 31.03.2021 Amount in Rupees	Security agreement with brief description of securities
CCH 73890500000035 (old ac no. 114606211000036)	6,00,00,000/-	MCLR+ 0.30+5.95 = 15.00%	**Rs.6,28,46,517.00** (inclusive of interest upto 30.09.2020)Plus interest from 01.10.2020 to till closure of loan	***mentioned below
FITL 73890600000949 (old ac no. 114600327000002)	50,93,738/-	13.85%	**Rs.50,93,738.00** (inclusive of interest upto 31.08.2020) Plus interest from 01.09.2020 to till closure of loan	***mentioned below
Term Loan 73890600000276 (old ac no. 114609041000040)	2,25,00,000/-	MCLR+SP+4.70 = 13.65%	**Rs.1,79,84,502.00** (inclusive of interest upto 30.11.2019) Plus interest from 31.12.2019 to till closure of loan	***mentioned below
TOTAL			8,59,24,757.00	

*** SECURITIES:

1. Exclusive charge on all the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site No.727, in NTI layout, 2nd phase,Rajeev Gandhinagar, Bangalore, carved out of various Sy. Nos. of Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore -560092 in the name of G.P.Venkata Naidu, measuring East to West 50ft and North to South 80ft., in all measuring 4000sq.ft and bounded: East : Site No. 726, West: Site No.728, North : Site No. 722,South : Road.

2. Exclusive charge on all the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site No.726, in NTI layout, 2nd phase,Rajeev Gandhinagar, Bangalore, carved out of various Sy. Nos. of Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore -560092 in the name of G.P.Venkata Naidu, measuring East to West 50ft and North to South 80ft., in all measuring 4000sq.ft and bounded: East : Site No. 725, West: Site No.727, North : Site No. 723, South : Road.

3.Continuing security of all that piece and parcel of Converted Land (ALN(LAY) SR237/2008-09, SY No. 55/6, 54/2, 54/1&55/7, BBMP Khatha No.762/54/1, 54/2/55/4, 7 in the name G.P. Venkata Naidu situated at Jakkuru village, Yelahanka Hobli Bengalore – 560063 total land Measuring 28.5 guntas (7 guntas in Sy. No.55/6. 9 guntas in Sy.No.54/2, 1 guntas in Sy. No.54/1 and 11.5 guntas in Sy. No.55/7 total 28.5 guntas) i.e. 31036.5 sq. feet and RCC building consisting of Ground floor, First floor, Second floor, Third floor and terrace floor total built up area is 56958 sq. ft. (property already mortgaged to loan ac no. Term Loan (V-Rent) A/c. No. 73890600000505 (114608381000017) in the name of Mr. G.P.Venkata Naidu). East : Remaining portion of Sy. No. 55/6, 55/7, & 54/2, West : Remaining portion of Sy. No. 55/6, 55/7, & 54/2, North: Land belongs to Devaraj, ramanna, T S Krishnaiah, Ramakrishna, Narayan & Gopal, South : Sy. No. 53 & Land belonging to N Hanumaiah.

2. In the letter of acknowledgement of debt dated **30.03.2019** you have acknowledged your liability to the Bank for CCH A/c. No. **73890500000035 (old ac no. 114606211000036)**to the tune of **Rs.600.03 lakhs** as on **30.03.2019** The outstandings stated above include interest upto **28.02.2019**. And also In the letter of acknowledgement of debt dated **30.03.2019** you have acknowledged your liability to the Bank for **Term Loan 73890600000276 (old ac no. 114609041000040)** to the tune of **Rs.192.51 lakhs** as on **31.03.2019** The outstandings stated above include interest upto **28.02.2019**.
3. As you are aware, you have committed defaults in payment of interest on **CCH 73890500000035 (old ac no. 114606211000036)** the month ended **31.10.2020** and thereafter. You have also defaulted in payment of instalments of **FITL 73890600000949 (old ac no. 114600327000002)wh**ich have fallen due for payment on **30.09.2020** and thereafter and You have also defaulted in payment of instalments of **Term Loan 73890600000276 (old ac no. 114609041000040)wh**ich have fallen due for payment on **31.12.2019.**
4. Consequent upon the defaults committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non-performing asset on **30.03.2020** (mention date of classification as NPA) in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines. In spite of our repeated requests and demands you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon.
5. Having regard to your inability to meet your liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned in para 1 above, and classification of your account as a non-performing asset, we hereby give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the Bank aggregating **Rs. 8,59,24,757.00 (Rupees Eight crore fifty nine lakh twenty four thousand seven hundred fifty seven only), plus interest and applicable charges**, as stated in para 1 above within 60 days from the date of this notice. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest till the date of payment, we shall be free to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which please note.
6. Please note that, interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 above for each credit facility until payment in full.
7. We invite your attention to sub-section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13(13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.
8. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender/private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.
9. Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- M.B.RAJU,
Asst. General Manager
Authorised Officer

Place: Bangalore
Date: 27.04.2021

UNION BANK OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE - BANGALORE SOUTH
#10A, Chandra Kiran", Kasturba Road
Bangalore - 56001 Ph: 22958250, 22958251

DEMAND NOTICE

(Under Sub Section (2) of Section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter Called Act)

At your request, Bank has extended credit facilities to the below mentioned Individuals against secured assets through its **UNION BANK OF INDIA (Erstwhile Corporation Bank) NIFT Campus Branch.** The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement / documents & creation of mortgage by way of deposit of title deeds are furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/credit facilities have become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset (NPA) in accordance with the directives / guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrowers in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the Demand Notice dated **16.04.2021** issued under section13(2) of the above said Act sent by registered AD calling upon you, was unserved / not acknowledged, this Notice/publication is now issued.

Name & Address of Borrowers: Mr. Shiju Shihabudeen, No. 225, Amritha Nagar, 3rd Phase, 5th cross, Choodasandra, Sarjapura Road, Bengaluru-560099.
Description of the Schedule Property: "Atulya Residential Flats" Apartment Flat No C-404, Third Floor, C-Block, Khatha No .450/99/C-404, E-Khatha No. 150200103200121043, Property bearing Khatha No. 450/99, converted Sy No. 99, 4th Cross, R.K. township, Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal, Bengaluru-562105 Super Built Up area 1150 Sq. Ft., Car parking in Basement with 521 Sq. ft.

Total Amount due as on 05.04.2021 : Rs.23,02,015/- (Rupees Twenty three Lacs two thousand fifteen only)
NPA Date: 31.03.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 16.04.2021**

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank, Please take note that as per section 13(8) of the SARFEASI Act the right of redemption of secured assets will be available to you oly till the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease , assignment or sale of the secured assets.

Place : Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date : 14.05.2021 **Union Bank of India**

Bank of Baroda

Mayohall Branch (e-Vijaya Bank), PB No. 5118, Ground Floor, Public Utility Building, M G Road, Bangalore – 560 001.
Tel: 080-25588936 / 25587312 / 25594873,
E-mail: vjmayo@bankofbaroda.com

NOTICE TO GUARANTOR

To,
(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

1. Mr. G. Jayaprakash S/o G. P. Venkata Naidu, C/o Sri Sai Automobiles, No.158/F, Cantonment, BELLARY, KARNATAKA.**Also at : Mr. G.Jayaprakash**, S/o G.P.Venkata Naidu, No.401. 4th floor, Arya Krishna Apartments, Kodigehalli Extension, Vidyaranyapura, Canara Bank Layout, Bangalore – 560092

Dear sir/s

***Re:* Your guarantee for credit facilities granted to G.P.Venkata Naidu & G. Lakshmi Narasamma, – Term Loan (V-Rent) Account No. 73890600000505 (Old A/c. No.114608381000017).**

1. As you are aware, you have, by a guarantee dated **20.06.2018** guaranteed payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities then or at any time thereafter owing or incurred to us by **G.P.Venkata Naidu & G. Lakshmi Narasamma – Term Loan (V-Rent) Account No. 73890600000505 (Old A/c. No.114608381000017)** for aggregate credit limits of **Rs. 8,05,00,000/-** with interest thereon more particularly set out in the said guarantee document. To secure the guarantee obligation you have also provided following securities to us:
(mention particulars of securities including document if any, by which security is created.)
2. We have to inform you that the borrower has committed defaults in payment of his liabilities and consequently his account has been classified as non-performing asset. A copy of the notice dated **27.04.2021** under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 sent by us to the borrower is enclosed. Since the borrower has committed defaults, in terms of the guarantee you have become liable to pay to us the outstanding amount of loan/credit facilities aggregating **Rs. 8,52,29,270.00 (Rupees Eight crore fifty two lakh twenty nine thousand two hundred seventy only) plus interest from 01.09.2020 plus applicable charges** and we hereby invoke the guarantee and call upon you to pay the said amount within 60 days from the date of this notice. Please note that interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 of the notice dated **27.04.2021** served on the borrower (copy enclosed).
3. We further wish to inform you that in regard to the security provided by you to secure your guarantee obligations for the due repayment of the loans and advances by the borrower, this notice of 60 days may please be treated as notice under sub-section(2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest upto the date of payment, we shall be at liberty to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which please note.
4. We invite your attention to sub-section(13) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13(13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.
5. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender/private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.
6. Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- M.B.RAJU,
Asst. General Manager
Authorised Officer.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 27.04.2021

QuoteExpress DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING ❯ SAM LEVENSON

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU FRIDAY 14.05.2021

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

35,297 CASES REPORTED TODAY

39,998 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY 20,88,488

YESTERDAY 20,53,191

DEATHS

TODAY 344 YESTERDAY 517

DISCHARGES

TODAY 34,057 YESTERDAY 34,752

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY 5,93,078

YESTERDAY 5,92,182

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY 7.58%

YESTERDAY 7.49%

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY 0.99%

YESTERDAY 0.99%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY 70.60%

YESTERDAY 70.16%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until May 13, 2021, a total of 20,88,488 cases have been reported in 1 year and 63 days...

1,09,76,189 Number of people vaccinated across the state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Health care workers 1st dose	6,95,665
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,55,675
Frontline workers 1st dose	4,78,891
Frontline workers 2nd dose	1,88,574
Age 18-45 1st dose	99,422
Age 45st dose	73,60,514
Age 45 2nd dose	16,97,448

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

15,191 BENGALURU URBAN

1,079 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalakot: 520	Chamarajanagara: 842	Dakshina Kannada: 812	Hassan: 792	Kolar: 488	Raichuru: 170	Udupi: 891
Ballari: 1,865	Chikkaballapura: 354	Davanagere: 494	Haveri: 160	Koppala: 437	Ramanagara: 518	Uttara Kannada: 791
Belagavi: 713	Chikkamagaluru: 445	Dharwad: 737	Kalaburagi: 497	Mandya: 1,153	Shivamogga: 880	Vijayapura: 331
Bidar: 257	Chitradurga: 292	Gadag: 430	Kodagu: 425	Mysuru: 1,260	Tumakuru: 1,798	Yadagir: 675

Now, shortage of medical supplies hits pvt hosps

Available stocks can last only 10 days in Bengaluru: Major supplier

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WHILE the government is focused on shortage of Covid vaccines, Remedivisir and oxygen, doctors at private hospitals are warning of fast depleting stocks of antibiotics, IV drip sets, cannulas and non-breathable respiratory masks which are essential for any treatment.

Dr Jagadish J Hiremath, Medical Director, Ace Suhas Hospital, said, "Someone in government needs to take stock of the situation. Syringe costs have already gone through the roof and 10 ml syringes are not available for the last three days. Even examination gloves, injectable paracetamols and IV antibiotics are on premium."

Keshav Kumar, owner of Medinova Pharmaceuticals who supplies to nearly 25-30 hospitals around Bengaluru South, Jigani, Electronics City and surrounding areas, said the present stock in the market can only last for 10 days in Bengaluru. "It is from here that the supplies go to other districts, but there is a major shortage. If we demand a thousand of any of these, we get 20 to 30 per cent," he said.

Among the list are IV fluids -- nasal saline 100 ml, 500 ml; basic antibiotics ceftriaxone and its combinations, piperacillin tazobactam; NBR masks and twin bore cannulas which are essential for oxygen machines.

Prasanna HM, president, Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes' Association, said, "There is a shortage of NRBM masks and nitrile gloves, but I have not heard of IV cannulas and doxycycline being in short supply."

The distributors attribute it to the lockdown and sudden explosion in demand in the second wave. Also, most manufacturing companies are in North India and they have been facing issues like staff testing Covid-positive, lack of transportation etc.

Rajiv Nath, Managing Director, Hindustan Syringes & Medical Devices, and Forum Coordinator of Association of Indian Medical Device Industry, said lockdown in states and employees' illness have created supply chain issues. Distributors and dealers too are unable to sell the stocks even if it is available with them, he added.

"We have been requesting the government to treat employees of medical devices manufacturers, ancillaries and distribution networks the same as frontline workers. The Union Health Ministry and State Governments should consider their priorities if they don't want shortages. My own company has 400 people less than maximum strength of 3,200," he said.

Industry experts said the cost of plastics supplied by Reliance and used in medical devices has gone up by 40% and the product used for packaging has gone up by 20%. Many manufacturers are still negotiating prices, which has led to the problem, an expert said.

> Syringe costs have already gone through the roof and 10 ml syringes are not available for the last three days
>
> Dr Jagadish J Hiremath, Medical Director, Ace Suhas Hospital

Vaccinate 18+ group on priority: Youth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THOSE in the 18-44 age group who were anxiously waiting for the vaccine are disappointed that the State Government has suspended it and said that the Government is not serious about the drive. With no date announced as to when it will restart, those who managed to get the first dose are at risk of missing their second dose, they added.

"The State Government ordered the vaccines late. Other states are vaccinating more people than us. Those in the 18-44 age group travel the most and are at higher risk of getting infected," said Abdul Aleem, president, Changemakers of Kanakapura Road.

The Centre should approve vaccines from other companies, like Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson and Chinese manufacturers. The current monopoly of one or two vaccines is causing delays, he added.

People wait outside Bengaluru's KC General Hospital to get vaccinated on Thursday, when the city saw 15,191 fresh cases | SHRIRAM B N

A lawyer, Venkat Purushottam, was trying to book a slot on the CoWIN portal ever since the slots opened up for the 18-plus age group. He used vaccine trackers that give updates on Telegram, a messaging platform, watching it throughout the day to find an available slot. But he was unsuccessful and soon after, the drive was suspended.

"This age category works in high-paying jobs and pays higher taxes. They should be prioritised along with those above 45 years. The government has not purchased sufficient stocks of vaccines," he said.

He pointed out that when the drive was opened for senior citizens and those above 45, no one came forward. Now that the vaccines are in short supply, people are coming in large numbers. Sufficient time has been given to the older population and it is important now to focus on the younger crowd, so that they feel safe to move around, he added.

It is always better to follow the ideal gap recommended by each vaccine manufacturer for the best antibody response. There are no side-effects even if one exceeds the recommended interval, said Dr K S Satish, senior consultant, pulmonology and chest medicine, Fortis Hospitals.

"After receiving the first dose, if you miss your date to get the second dose, there is no need to start the vaccination cycle again. Try to take the second shot as soon as possible," Dr Satish said.

IISc O_2 CONCENTRATOR BEING VALIDATED, SAYS SUDHAKAR

EXPRES NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed an oxygen concentrator of 10 LPM capacity which is being tested for clinical validation at Bangalore Medical College and also a Covid vaccine, said Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar, who interacted with IISc Director Prof Govindan Rangarajan on Thursday.

Prof Rangarajan said the results are promising and claimed that the oxygen output is about 90 per cent and hence more efficient as compared to Chinese concentrators whose output is about 40-50%. He sought the support of

Sudhakar to expedite the process of clinical validation and to get regulatory approvals from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation for emergency use. Sudhakar assured Prof Rangarajan of all necessary support and said he will take up the matter with RGUHS Vice-Chancellor and concerned Union Ministers.

"The vaccine being developed by IISc is promising as the results show a better neutralising effect than the existing vaccines. This vaccine, which is yet to begin human trials, could be a big breakthrough as the vaccine can be stored at room temperature. This enables the government to scale up distribution in a faster and easier way," Sudhakar said.

Raghavan Varadarajan, professor of Molecular Biophysics Unit, IISc, said the vaccine is made of a protein subunit, which refers to a part of the surface protein of the coronavirus and no other components."We still have to do the process development, safety and toxicity studies. The trials will begin after six to eight months," he said.

State didn't adhere to vax advisories: Centre to HC

ENS @ Bengaluru

TAKING note of a point by the Centre that the State Government did not follow its advisory on prioritising the second dose of the vaccination, the Karnataka High Court on Thursday asked the State why the norms were violated.

"If the State submits the district-wise data on the number of second doses required, the Centre will take an appropriate decision on allocating vaccines to states on Friday," the Additional Solicitor General of India said.

Referring to the three advisories issued by the Centre to the state Health Department in April and May on administering 70% of vaccines to those waiting for the second dose and 30% to first-shot recipients, a division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Aravind Kumar asked Advocate General Prabhuling K Navadagi why the state has not followed the advisory. Navadagi sought time to submit a response.

"In view of the assurance given by the Centre, we are not issuing mandatory directions," the court said.

COVID BYTES

Govt plans to set up CCCs at panchayats

ENS @ Bengaluru

WITH Covid-19 cases expected to increase in rural areas in the next few weeks owing to reverse migration, the RDPR Department is planning to set up covid care centres (CCCs) and quarantine centres in the panchayats.

The State Government has already set up Covid management committees in every panchayat. The panchayat development officers will be entrusted with the work of setting up of quarantine centres using available resources like schools and hostels. The panchayats have been told to set up CCCs in PHCs and take help from ASHA workers.

A senior official told *TNIE* that the Covid management committees will take care of those who return to villages from cities and towns and send them to quarantine centres. They will be shifted to CCCs, if needed.

'Gear up for 3rd wave, set up paediatric task force'

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

SET up a paediatric task force in every district and prepare yourself for the third wave to protect children, the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has recommended to the government.

"The third wave is projected to impact children more, since they will not be vaccinated. The State government should prioritise the safety and health of children. Medical infrastructure on the lines of Maharashtra needs to be devised, and it is vital that a paediatric task force is set up in every district," said Chairman, KSCPCR, Father Anthony Sebastian.

It has also drawn the attention of the State to concerns regarding the safety and protection of children who have lost their parents to the ongoing second wave of Covid-19. "The protection of such children is at stake. Instances of orphaned children being trafficked and abused is high. These children should be protected from illegal adoption, misuse and other child rights violations. They should be produced before the Child Welfare Committees and suitable measures should be undertaken to protect them, as per provisions of the law," said Father Anthony

He added that chances of these children being infected is high, and hence they are more vulnerable to mental trauma. "It is, therefore, vital to provide them medical treatment, psychosocial support and counselling. Monitoring committees at the state and district level should be immediately constituted," he added.

Regarding the paediatric task force, the KSCPCR has recommended that it should be given adequate support to plan infrastructure and arrangements for the treatment and isolation of children who test positive.

Mysuru-based firm develops drugs to fight Covid

KARTHIK KK @ Mysuru

AT a time when the Covid second wave is raging, a Mysuru-based company has developed a new set of drugs to combat the Coronavirus, and the advantage is that these drugs can be administered orally.

DRM Innovations, has used artificial intelligence to develop the drug. A team of specialists, led by Dr Manjunath B H, MD of DRM, Dr Basappa, Chairman, Laboratory of Chemical Biology, Department of Studies in Organic Chemistry, University of Mysore, and Prof Mahesh PA, Department of Respiratory Medicine, JSS Medical College and Hospital, has developed the drugs.

Studies by Dr Priya Abraham, Dr Anita Shete and Dr Pragya Jadhav of the National Institute of Virology, Pune, confirmed that the new drugs had good inhibitory effects in killing the virus in cell-based systems.

Animal studies at JSS Pharmacy College, Mysuru by Dr Pramod Kumar, principal, and Saravana Babu, research head, established that the drug can be given orally. "These drugs have the potential to cross the blood-brain barrier since many Covid patients suffer from neurological problems and Remdesivir does not cross that barrier," said Dr Manjunath B H.

"Our molecules are ready to go for human clinical trials," he said.

B'luru at peak, surge in dists later this month: Experts

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

WITH Karnataka reeling under the second wave, capital Bengaluru is reaching its peak, and the districts are likely to soon start peaking. A downward trend is expected from May 20 onwards, say experts.

According to mathematicians at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and experts from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Bengaluru will continue to peak till around May 17. Just as each state peaks at a different time, districts will too, as per mathematical models.

The multi-dimensional partial differential equation model takes into account factors such as vaccination, lockdown and assumption of two unreported cases for every reported case. Experts have projected that the lockdown will bring down the Covid-19 caseload by 28 lakh, to 13.93 lakh in the second week of June.

According to Prof Sashikumar Ganesan, Department of Computational and Data Sciences, IISc, "We are currently at the peak in terms of daily confirmed cases in Bengaluru. Though it's a bit early to say whether the lockdown is effective, our predictions for Bengaluru Urban — factoring in no lockdown, 100% complacency, 50% and 75 % scenarios — show the current trend is following 100% compliance. The numbers are coming under control in Bengaluru, as per predictions. However, we have to wait for 3-4 days for a proper picture."

Senior epidemiologist Dr Giridhara R Babu, who is also a Covid-19 TAC member, warned that reduction in testing from April 20 is not a good sign, and causes confusion between the real peak and apparent peak. He said, "At present, case detection is a bit erratic as the number being tested has reduced, especially in Bengaluru. This won't give a clear indication on cases at the peak. According to several mathematical models, we started peaking in the second week of May, as expected, and the districts will start soon. Critical care is still clogged. The number of cases may start falling by the month-end, but we have to wait and watch. Districts are of more concern," he explained.

A woman being given oxygen in an ambulance, in Bengaluru on Thursday | VINOD KUMAR T

Interestingly, Dr Manjunath CN, Director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, points out that it is too early to rejoice over the health department's bulletin. "The number of cases appears to be low, but one should look at testing done the day before. Besides, positivity rate has remained the same. We are definitely benefitting from the lockdown but have to wait and see. Testing shouldn't be reduced at any cost," he warns.

While the lockdown has helped reduce the number of daily cases, experts also say that a minimum of two weeks is needed to give the healthcare system a breather. Maharashtra's way of handling the surge was better than Karnataka's, they say, and recommend that the state extend the lockdown by at least two weeks. However, Prof Sashikumar said a detailed analysis of the situation in Bengaluru and Karnataka will be done on May 20, before a report is submitted to the government. "It is important that tough decisions are taken on whether to extend the lockdown or unlock in a graded manner. It will be extremely difficult if the state opens up all activities at once," he said.

Dr V Ravi, retired HOD of the Department of Virology, Nimhans, said people's behaviour needs to be monitored, and if the lockdown is effective, the downward trend will be visible from the last week of May in Bengaluru, and a few weeks later in the districts.

INHUMAN ACT

Villagers attack Covid+ youth with stones

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A Covid-positive patient sustained grievous injuries after a few miscreants from his village attacked him and his parents with stones, asking them to move out of Karapura village in Mysuru district.

After the youth tested positive, the panchayat members had asked the family not to move out of the house, assuring them that the medicines would be supplied to them.

But the miscreants, led by Muthe Gowda and Balaram, alleged that the youth was sitting outside the house and attacked him with stones, fracturing his right elbow. They also instigated other villagers to attack the youth and his family. They threatened the family to move out of the village, saying the infection could spread to others.

As the youth continued to bleed and his parents raised an alarm, some other villagers called an ambulance and shifted him to the Taluk Hospital at H D Kote.

The victim said that the attackers were furious after coming to know that he was Covid-positive. He posted a video clip on social media, accusing Muthuraj and Balaram of masterminding the attack.

An onlooker, Sunil, said that the youth was indeed beaten up badly by the villagers.

All-party meet: Unanimous decision on stricter lockdown in Tamil Nadu

Decides to put a complete stop to public meetings, political events to check spread of Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE meeting of representatives of all legislature parties in the State Assembly on Thursday, resulted in an unanimous agreement to intensify the ongoing complete lockdown further to protect the lives of people. "Based on the views expressed by the representatives of all parties in the meeting, it has been decided to intensify the norms for complete lockdown further with a view to protect the lives of the people," Health Minister Ma Subramanian told reporters after the 160-minute-long meeting held at the Secretariat.

The Minister said five resolutions were adopted at the meeting. A unanimous resolution was adopted to the effect that all parties would extend full support to the measures to be taken for containing the spread of the virus. Another resolution said all political parties have decided to completely stop organising public meetings as well as political events since the Corona infection is spreading fast. The parties have agreed to set an example for the people in adhering to the Covid-19 norms so that the people would follow suit to prevent the spread.

It was also decided that all parties should engage themselves in the relief works for the people.

Covid patients wait outside Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in Chennai on Thursday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Two die in ambulances waiting for admission

CHENNAI: TWIN tragedy unfolded outside Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital on Wednesday when two Covid-19 patients died during their wait to get admission to the hospital. Commenting on the incident, Dr E Theranirajan, dean of the hospital, said one was a 74-year-old man and the other, 75-year-old woman, and both were critically-ill patients. They were referred from private hospitals to RGGGH in a terminal stage. One death happened at 8.30 pm and the other around 9 pm. There were over 20 ambulances waiting outside the hospital and a team of doctors was attending to the patients one after the other. Before the two septuagenarians could be checked, they passed away in the ambulance. "Private hospitals are referring patients in the terminal stage," said Dr Theranirajan.

CRIME PATROL

20-year-old killed in road accident

BENGALURU: A 20-year-old youth was killed, while another was injured, when a tempo hit a rock on NICE Road in Kumaraswamy Layout traffic police station limits in the wee hours of Thursday. The deceased, Chetan, is a resident of Kanakapura. The injured, Dorendra Thapa (24), is hospitalised. Police said the tempo was passing near Pillaganahalli Bridge on NICE Road, between the Bannerghatta Road and Kanakapura Road stretch. The driver, Andani, lost control of the vehicle and hit the rock on the roadside," police added.

Burglars held, booty worth ₹75L recovered

BENGALURU: DJ Halli police have arrested a group of four security guards from Nepal for burgling houses in and around the city. They have recovered booty worth Rs 75 lakh from the accused, Manoj Mashi (37), Keshavaraj Bhat (56) Prakash Bahadur (23), Vikram Singh (36). The accused were working as security guards during the day. They would zero in on locked houses before burgling them. Police said that six cases of burglaries have been solved with their arrest.

Man held for selling fake Covid-negative reports

BENGALURU: The Upparpet police have arrested a 35-year-old man for allegedly issuing fake Covid-19 negative certificates to train passengers. The accused has been identified as Sampath Lal, a resident of Manavarthpet in Akkipet. Police said he was arrested following information that a person was selling fake negative reports at BBMP Ground in Balepet. "He was charging ₹3,000-₹4,000, and issued negative reports to passengers mostly travelling to West Bengal and Rajasthan by train.

SSLC exams postponed indefinitely in Karnataka

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

THE SSLC exams stand postponed for now, announced Minister for Primary and Secondary Education S Suresh Kumar on Thursday. The SSLC exams were scheduled to start from June 21 and end on July 5. The minister said that the exams were postponed due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases in the state. In a statement, the minister assured people that they will come to a suitable decision after the second wave dies down. Kumar appealed to students to continue with their preparations for the exams.

The minister and various officials convened meetings regarding the exam on May 12 and 13. V Sumangala, director of examination, Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board, said in a circular that keeping various aspects in mind and considering the students and parents, the examination was postponed.

She said that the revised timetable will be announced 20 days before the exam and further information will be published by the department from time to time.

Civil Service Exams put off to October

Bengaluru: The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2021, scheduled to be held on June 27, has been deferred in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is now scheduled for October 10. The Union Public Service Commission said that due to the prevailing conditions caused by Covid, the Union Public Service Commission has deferred the exam.

Red alert issued in South Kerala amid cyclone warning

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

A cyclonic storm brewing in the Arabian sea has triggered heavy rains across Kerala forcing the state government to open control rooms in all its taluks.

The disaster management authority has alerted various government departments considering the possibility of flood and landslides.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Pathanamthitta districts, while orange alert has been sounded in Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Idukki districts on Friday. South Kerala may receive more than 30 cm rainfall while Central Kerala may get 15 cm rainfall.

'Demand for vax went up after 2nd wave'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"BUT after the second wave, the demand for vaccines went up. This month, it is expected to go up further. In one week, some more vaccines will be available," he added, but did not give out details. "We have gotten in touch with the manufacturers of Sputnik V and they have agreed to send five crore doses," he said and added that 75,000 doses had already arrived. When TNIE got in touch with Dr Reddy's Laboratory, which is officially importing the Sputnik V vaccine, they confirmed that about 1.5 lakh doses had arrived.

Sadananda Gowda said friendly nations have come to India's aid, thanks to our good relations with them. He added that the PM Cares Fund had given Rs 303.69 crore to Karnataka. Referring to the opposition Congress protests in the state, led by Siddaramaiah on Wednesday, Sadananda Gowda said, "If Corona can be controlled by holding protests, let them be on the streets, that is good."

While the Opposition has been slamming the government for its lack of preparedness, C T Ravi reasoned, "If necessary arrangements had not been made in advance, then there would have been more fatalities." He said oxygen supply has been increased from 300 metric tons to 1,500 tons due to "systematic preparation."

Ravi later admitted, "Our preparations did not succeed because of the rapid spread of Covid-19."

Ravi said, "Judges are not Sarvajnas. Whatever knowledge is available with us, and based on that the technical advisory committee's opinion, we decide on the quantum of vaccines and distribution process."

Meanwhile, reacting to the BJP leader's remarks on judges, KPCC president D K Shivakumar tweeted, "BJP leader C T Ravi's statement against judges, saying they are not 'Sarvagna', is highly condemnable. Trying to cast aspersions on judges, when they are upholding the rights of our citizens, is one of the reasons why our country is witnessing such devastation during this pandemic."

6-month gap could put recovered patients at risk: Docs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"ALSO, the Karnataka government has suspended vaccination for 18-44 year age group, claiming that all available vaccines will be used to inoculate those waiting for the second dose. Aren't these SOPs from the government confusing," asked the senior doctor.

Explaining that evidence from other countries that a delayed second dose, up to 12 weeks and beyond, is beneficial and showed higher efficacy was available since January, Dr Giridhara R Babu, a member of the state Technical Advisory Committee, pointed out that the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid did not agree to it earlier. "I am happy that they have agreed now. It is a decision based on evidence," he said.

Dr V Ravi, also part of the Mission Covid Suraksha -- set up by the Union Health Ministry to accelerate development of vaccines, explained that an individual's immune system retains memory from three months to six months. "During this time, the maximum interval can be stretched and we have seen studies showing that even after one dose of vaccine, we can get 40 to 50 per cent protection and the severity of the infection will definitely be less," he pointed out.

But the panel's suggestion of Covid-recovered patients having to wait for six months was questioned by many. Dr Ravi said that for such patients, eight weeks should be the ideal time to take the jab. Six months may be too much and there could be a reinfection, he explained.

Some doctors suggested that recovered patients can get an antibody test on the spike protein and decide when to take the vaccine. A senior doctor from a private hospital asked, "What if there is a new variant and immunity wanes."

IN THE COURT OF THE 38TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH-39) AT BANGALORE

O.S. No. 1898/2020

BETWEEN: **Priyanka Sadasivan,** D/o. Lt. Colonel Sadasivan K.A., Aged about 36 years, R/at No. 1004, 1st Main Road, Ranka Nagar, Kaval Byrasandra, R.T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560 032. ...Plaintiff

AND

Drwheelz Auto Services Private Limited and others ...Defendants

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT No. 1, 2, 3 AND 4

1) Drwheelz Auto Services Private Limited, No. 1485/A, Aravinda Nagar, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 084. Rptd. by it's Director Balaji Mohan.

And Also at : Drwheelz Auto Service Pvt. Ltd. Point No. 1, No. 2, 2nd Cross, Kammanahalli, Nehru Road, Bengaluru - 560 084.

2) Mr. Balaji Mohan, S/o. Mohan Murugesh, Aged about 30 years, Director of Drwheelz Auto Service Pvt. Ltd., House No. 30, Ground Floor, Behind Shop No. 17, 11th Cross, Sadasiva Temple Road, Kanakadasa Layout, St. Thomas Town Post, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru - 560 008.

And Also at : Mr. Balaji Mohan, Director of Drwheelz Auto Service Pvt. Ltd., C/o. We Work Coworking Space, Embassy Golf Links Business Park, Challaghatta, Bengaluru - 560 071.

3) Mohan Murugesh, Director of Drwheelz Auto Services Pvt. Ltd., Office at MSM Complex, E.1, Above Redwood Furniture, Horamavu Service Lane, Near Underpass, Banasavadi, Bengaluru - 560 043.

4) Lingannagari Vijaya Kumar Reddy, Director of Drwheelz Auto Services Pvt. Ltd., Flat No. 1214, 1st Floor, Srija Hights, Ayyappa Society, Beside Harizon Residency, Madhapur Mega Hills, Madhapur, Hyderabad - 500 081.

Whereas, the plaintiff has filed a suit under order VII Rule 1 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, against you all to recover a sum of Rs. 21,73,276-00 (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Six only) together with interest thereon at 12% per annum.

Notice is hereby given to you all to appear this Hon'ble Court in person or through an Advocate or through some one duly authorised to act for you in this suit **on 05/06/2021 at 11.00 a.m.** to show why the relief sought for in that suit should be granted.

If you fail to appear, then the said suit will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court on this the 8th day of April 2021.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff :
S.V. Lakshminarayana, Advocate
No. 2, 1st Floor, P.C. Road, J.M. Lane, Balepet, Bengaluru - 560 053.

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Canara Bank केनरा बैंक

Koramangala J Block Branch, No. 703, 3rd Block, Behind BDA Shopping Complex, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034.

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank, Koramangala J Block Branch** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Names of the Borrowers: 1. Mrs. Varalakshmi W/o. Puttalingaiah, 2A Main Nanjappa Layout, Adugodi, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 030. **2. Mr. Puttalingaiah K.,** 2A Main Nanjappa Layout, Adugodi, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 030. **3. Mr. Nagaraju H.,** S/o. Late Hombaiah, 2 KSRD Qtrs, Koramangala, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 030.
Nature of Facility: Housing Loan
A/c No. 04567740000317, Limit: Rs.4, 90,000.00
Liability as on 31.03.2021: **Rs.4, 91,824.27** + further interest together with incidental expenses and costs.
Description of immovable property: Land and Building
Schedule A: Malagala Village, Survey No. 53 which comes under BDA limits, domicile blocks 11 to 18 in the serial building No. 288 including building in a total area of land measuring 2 acre and 32.5 guntas and bounded on: East : Road, West : Virishabhavathy Canal, North : BDA site, South : Road.
Schedule B : Undivided share of 34.625 sqm land in Schedule A.
Schedule C : All that piece and parcel of schedule property 1 BHK house bearing flat No. B4/302, 3rd floor, Malagala Layout, 4th Block, totap area measuring 34.625 sq. mtrs. Along with super built up area of 460 sq.ft. including passage, staircase, lifts bounded on : East : MGL No. B4/301, West : Road, North : MGL No. B4/303, South : Passage.
Name of the holder: Mrs. Varalakshmi.
Date of NPA: 30.12.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 05.04.2021**

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on the date mentioned above. The Bank issued Registered Notice to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Place : Bangalore
Date : 12.05.2021

Central Bank of India

BTM Layout Branch
No:8, 100 ft Ring Road, BTM 1st Stage, Bangalore 560 068
Ph:080-26686552 Fax:080-26785902,
E-Mail : bmbang2816@centralbank.co.in

NOTICE TO BORROWER /GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Central Bank of India, BTM Layout Branch** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2)of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

1. Name of the Borrowers & Guarantors: (1) **Mr. Jayaram M** S/o Mayakal Muniswamappa and Bujendra J No 120/70, "Devi Nilayam" 19th cross, Muniswamappa Layout, B K Nagar, 1stMain, Yeshwantapur, Bangalore -22, **(2) Bujendra J** S/o Jayaram M No 120/70," Devi Nilayam" 19th cross, Muniswamappa Layout,B K Nagar, 1st Main, Yeshwantapur, Bangalore -22
SCHEDULE A: a) Nature of Facility: Housing Loan, **A/c. No. : 3097517231 Limit: Rs.20,00,000/-**
b) Nature of Facility: Cent-Mortgage Loan A/c. No. : 3218101842 Limit: Rs.55,00,000/-
c) Nature of Facility: Top up Housing Loan A/c. No. : 3590250885 Limit: Rs.74,00,000/-
Liability as on 01.05.2021 :**Rs.1,31,53,532/-** (Rupees One Crore Thirty one lakh fifty three thousand five hundred and thirty two only) + interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
SCHEDULE B: Primary Security: Schedule Item No -1: All that piece and parcel of property standing in the name of **MrJayaram M** S/o Mayakal Muniswamappa bearing old Nos .18/6 and 18/11, now clubbed together and bearing New Khata No 18/6,PID NO-3-60-18/6 situated at Anjaneya Temple Road, Yeshwanthapua, Bangalore measuring 813.40 sq.ft bounded on East by Sri Sadashiv's property, West by Road, North by Sri Sathish's house, South by Sri Rama Reddy's House.
Schedule Item No -2: Al that piece and parcel of property standing in the name of **MrJayaram M** S/o Mayakal Muniswamappa bearing Nos 18/6-1 and 18/6-2 now clubbed together and bearing New Khata No 18/6-1, PID NO-3-60-18/6-1 situated at Anjaneya Temple Road, Yeshwanthapua, Bangalore. Measuring 763.60 sqft bounded on: East by Sri Nagaraj's site, West by Sri Jayaram's site, North by Sri Yellappa Reddy and Sri Sathish's House,South by Sri Rama Reddy's House
Schedule Item No -3 : Al that piece and parcel of property standing in the name of **MrJayaram M S/o Mayakal Muniswamappa** and Bujendra J S/o Jayaram M bearing Door No 634,BBMP Katha No 18/1, PID No 3-60-18/1 within the limits of BBMP situated at Yeshwantapura Range, at Anjaneya Temple Road,Bangalore. Measuring East to West :65-feet,North to South 30-0 feet totaling 1950 sq feet and bounded on : East by Sri Yellappa's property, West by Road, North by Sri Byarappa's property, South by Myakala Muniswamappa's Property.
Name of the holder: Mr.Jayaram M S/o Mayakal Muniswamappa
Date of NPA: 01.05.2021 **Demand Notice Date:07.05.2021**

2. Name of the Borrower: Mr. B N Manjunatha,154-B, Maruthi Nilaya, Kumbara Street, Behind Balaji Automobiles, B B Road, Near Old Bus Stand, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural - 562110
SCHEDULE A: 1) Nature of Facility: Cent-Mortgage A/c. No. : 3274441601 Limit: Rs.55,00,000/-
Liability as on 09.05.2018 : **Rs. 30,17,103/-**(Rupees Thirty lakh seventeen Thousand and one hundred and three only)+ interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
SCHEDULE B: Primary Security:All that piece and parcel of Property bearing old Sy. No.438 and New Sy. No. 378 present sub division as 378/4, situated at Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Devanahalli, Bangalore rural District, measuring 15398sq. feet out of 20 Guntas of land of Devanahalli village converted for residential use and presently within the limits of Town Municipality Devanahalli bearing assessment No.1648/378/1/378/4 and bounded on the East By : Lakshmamma"s Property (Sy No 381/6), West by: Ramanna's Property Sy. No. 377/2), North By : Rathamma's Property (Sy No.378), South By : Byanna's Property (Sy No.387)
Name of the Title Holder :Mr. B. N. Manjunatha S/o Sri. B. A. Nagaraj
Date of NPA: 01.05.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 07.05.2021**

3. Name of the Borrowers/Guarantors: a) Mrs. Hemavathi V. W/O P. Sridhar, # D-111B,92/2, K M S Residency 1st Floor, 27th BTM Layout,1st Stage, Bangalore 560068, **b) P Sridhar S/o. Papaiah** # D-111,92/2, K M S Residency 1st Floor,27th BTM Layout,1st Stage, Bangalore 560068, **c) Mrs. Hemavathi V.** W/O P. Sridhar, # D-111B,92/2, K M S Residency 1st Floor, 27th BTM Layout,1st Stage, Bangalore 560068 #270,BTM Layout, 6th stage, BDA,Hulimavu, Arekere, Bangalore.
SCHEDULE A: a) Nature of Facility: Housing Loan A/c. No. : 3252740537 Limit: Rs.48,00,000/-
b) Nature of Facility: Top up Housing Loan, A/c. No. : 3584750434 Limit: Rs.24,00,000/-
Liability as on 01.05.2021: **Rs.68,58,536/-** (Rupees Sixty Eight lakh Fifty eight thousand five hundred thirty six only) + interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
SCHEDULE B: Primary Security: All that piece and parcel of the residential Property bearing Site No.270, BBMP Khatha No.451/270 in the layout formed by BDA situated at 1st Block, 2nd phase, 6th stage, BTMLayout, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 6.09 meters and North to South 9.14 meters totally measuring 55.66 sq.mtrs. and presently coming under BBMP Arakere Sub-Division, alongwith existing building thereon and bounded as follows: East By : Site No. 269, West By : Site No. 271, North By : Boundary of survey No-90, South By : 30 feet Road.
Name of the Title Holder : Mrs. Hemavathi V. W/O P. Sridhar,
Date of NPA: 01.05.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 07.05.2021**

4. Name of the Borrowers/Guarantors: a) Mr B.Chandra (Borrower), S/o Mr Boraiah, No:35, Renukamba Nagara, 2nd Cross, Chunchagatta Main Road, Bangalore 560 062, **b) Smt Lakshmamma (Co-Borrower)** W/o Mr B.Chandra, No:35, Renukamba Nagara, 2nd Cross, Chunchagatta Main Road, Bangalore 560 062
SCHEDULE A: a) Nature of Facility: Cent Hom- Float - Term **Loan, A/c. No. : 3254566804. Limit: Rs.21,00,000/-**
Liability as on 01.05.2021: **Rs.19,77,691/-** (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Seventy seven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety One Only) + interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
SCHEDULE B: Primary Security: All that piece and parcel of the residential property belongs to Mr B.Chandra, bearing Katha No:64/1 Site No:14, within the limits of BBMP, Chunchagatta Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Measuirng 1200 sq ft and bounded on:- East by: Property No:13, West by: Property No:15, North by:Property No:10, South by: Road.
Name of the Title Holder : Mr B.Chandra.
Date of NPA: 01.05.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 07.05.2021**

5. Name of the Borrowers/Guarantors: a) Rathnamma w/o R Thippanna, No 70,7th Cross, Kundanahalli Colony Doddanekkundi Post, Bangalore 560037, **b) T Somashekhar** S/o R Thippanna, No 70, 7th Cross, Kundanahalli Colony Doddanekkundi Post, Bangalore 560037.
SCHEDULE A: a) Nature of Facility: Mortgage Loan, A/c. No. : 3223062009 Limit: Rs.40,00,000/-
Liability as on 01.05.2021: **Rs.13,99,860/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Ninty Nine Thousand Eight Thousand Sixty Only) + interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
SCHEDULE B: Primary Security: All that piece and parcel of House property measuring 1200 Sq Ft area bearing Katha No 218,Old No 209/70,Site No 70,situated within limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagar Palike,Mahadevapura Sub Division,Kundanahalli Village,Krishnarajapura Hobli,Bangalore.bounded as: East: Site No 71, West: Site No 69, North : 30 feet road,South: Site No 83.
Name of the Title Holder : Mrs. Rathnamma w/o R Thippanna
Date of NPA: 01.05.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 07.05.2021**

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on the date mentioned above. The Bank issued Registered Notice to all the above borrower/ Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **Central Bank of India,** for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Central Bank of India

Place : Bangalore
Date : 07.05.2021

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR

e - Procurement Notice

B-88 BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE(R&B) BGR / 02/ 2021-22

No. 1390 // Dtd. 11.05.2021

1. The **Superintending Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Circle, Bolangir** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B/A/ Special/Super Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

2. Nature. of Work	:	Building and Road
3. No. of tender	:	Building : 05 Nos and Road: 03 Nos
4. Tender Cost	:	Rs.10, 000/-
5. Class of Contractor	:	B/A/ Special/Super
6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids	:	From Dt.20.05.2021, 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 03.06.2021up to 05.00 P.M.
7. Date of opening Bid	:	Dt.04.06.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **http://tendersorissa.gov.in.** All future corrigendum will be available on **ONLINE MODE only.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir OIPR-34028/11/0003/2122

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. : U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website : www.pspcl.in
Contact No. 96461-18774

Tender Enquiry No.: MQP-175/2021-22/PO(M) Dated: 23.04.2021

Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Reading, Analysis and 5 year O&M of 90,300 number Smart Meters, AMI system & Communication infrastructure with a network platform in Sunder Nagar Special Division of Ludhiana City on Turnkey Basis. For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **23.04.2021 from 11:00 AM** onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

226/C-187-21-5/13/2021
76155/12/252/2021/4535

QuoteExpress

WHEN YOU REACH THE END OF YOUR ROPE, TIE A KNOT IN IT AND HANG ON › FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

EDITORIAL

"Friendship is a mirror to presence and a testament to forgiveness. Friendship ... can be sustained over the years only with someone who has repeatedly forgiven us for our trespasses as we must find it in ourselves to forgive them

David Whyte

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

AP HOSPITAL DEATHS RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT LOGISTICS, MAINTENANCE

It was a tragedy that was waiting to happen. Thirteen precious lives were lost due to short supply of oxygen at the Ruia Hospital in Tirupati on Monday night. Could it have been avoided? From what we know, it could well have been. We do not want to jump to conclusions since a probe ordered by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is yet to be completed. Nonetheless, facts available in public domain raise questions over maintenance and logistics.

The Ruia Hospital is one of the biggest in the Rayalaseema region and caters to about 1,000 patients at any given time. On the ill-fated night, with the available oxygen exhausted, and the tanker arriving late from Sriperumbudur, hospital staff made frantic attempts to supply oxygen using cylinders. The official account is that the deaths were caused due to drop in pressure while supplying oxygen to the patients on the first floor. This begs the question as to why the tanker from Tamil Nadu was delayed—some reports claim it was late by as much as four-and-a-half hours—and whether there was a contingency plan to face exactly such an eventuality. If not, why? These questions must be asked not to indulge in an unsavoury blame-game but to ensure that similar incidents do not recur. It is a fact that the administrative apparatus is stretched thin, fighting an invisible enemy with limited resources round-the-clock. With an active caseload of a little over two lakhs and the state recording over 20,000 cases a day, the oxygen requirement is only going to go up. Currently, the state needs over 600 MT of liquid oxygen while the allotment by the Centre is 590 MT. The chief minister has urged the prime minister to increase the allocation to 910 MT even as the state is making efforts to ramp up oxygen supply by setting up new plants.

Despite the partial curfew in force, the case count is hovering around 20,000 a day, if not increasing further. The only solution is vaccination and strict vigilance. This is a war of a different kind. It demands unity of purpose and humanism. Most tragedies can be avoided if we have these weapons.

THE REMDESIVIR MESS IN TAMIL NADU

In the last week of April, Tamil Nadu announced that it would begin sales of Remdesivir, a drug used to treat moderate cases of Covid-19 but in short supply, directly to patients of private hospitals. In its infinite wisdom, amid the raging second wave of the pandemic, the state chose to make the drug available for sale through counters at a single location in Chennai. To no one's surprise, masses of people, desperate to purchase the drug, thronged the hospital from across the state. Tokens issued quickly ran out and people took to waiting outside the hospital from the wee hours of the morning, hoping to purchase a drug that experts have cautioned is of limited efficacy (if at all). Despite complaining that it was being wildly overprescribed, officials did not take action against errant hospitals. Meanwhile, black marketing of the drug thrived. Once the DMK government took charge, some decentralisation occurred but did little to mitigate the stress on patients or their families. Finally, on Thursday, the state informed the Madras High Court that it would shift the venue of sale in Chennai from the Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital to a large stadium instead. It assured it would sell 20,000 vials a day.

Yet, this solution remains far from ideal and does little to prevent the chances of crowds gathering or the risk of Covid clusters forming, given that TN's active caseload is nearing two lakhs. Just as private hospitals have transferred the pressure and cost of sourcing the drug to patients, so has the state. What is the way forward? First, the state must continue to educate doctors when and how to use the drug, especially among those who may not have treated too many Covid cases before the second wave. Second, the state must look at the merits—and flaws—in the methods adopted by Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to address the issue. Both supply the drug directly to private hospitals based on their requirements. Neither has fully mitigated the stress on the patients' families, but they certainly offer a pathway that could streamline the process, reduce stress on already stressed families, keep an eye on overprescribing while also preventing the gathering of large crowds at a time when the state is struggling to meet the demands for beds and oxygen.

We were playing fast and loose, kindling those animal spirits that went missing from the economy, and chasing votes, when the virus returned in sundry mutant avatars

AUTO! CAN YOU TAKE ME TO MY OWN...?

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA
Resident Editor, Karnataka, *The New Indian Express*

AMIT BANDRE

The autorickshaw has become the metaphor of our deprivations. Serviceable, even loveable at other times; a comforting staple of our humdrum urban pell-mell. But as a last resort during a pandemic? An old lady criss-crossed four districts of Karnataka looking for a hospital bed. In an autorickshaw. She couldn't survive the ordeal. From UP and Bihar, images pour in of the dead being carried to heaven (or hell) in autorickshaws. As for Delhi, autos became a common sight—doubling up as makeshift oxygen beds outside hospitals, or carrying emergency supplies. Or firewood.

The humble three-wheeler's conversion into this new avatar is quite telling. As if the nation has lost a wheel. A nation in short supply—of everything from the material to the spiritual. Not enough ambulances, hospital beds, oxygen, medicines. If an auto could be powdered and repurposed into Remdesivir, we would have tried that.

This new saviour transport also tells us how far we're from the five-trillion-dollar economy dream. The first wave of corona had already mauled our economy; we could scarcely wait to get up before the count of ten. Now the world is telling us, with its photo lens focused on our misery, that we're back in the age where only charms and incantations worked. Through snake-charmer imagery that we spent decades hiding from, disowning, outgrowing. The savage satirism of *Charlie Hebdo* never cares to hide its own schadenfreude, but we brought about that allusion to "33 million gods" through our own actions.

Tens of thousands of closely packed, semi-bare bodies, smeared in vermilion, taking a dip in the holy river amidst a pandemic offers exactly the picture of irrationality the world loves to ascribe to India. If they were chasing *moksha*, the wish certainly seemed to have been granted—days later, bodies were being fished out by the dozens a few hundred kilometres downstream on the same river. The rest took corona home. India-baiters are not in short supply around the world, but we don't disappoint, do we?

Unconcern, then panic, then overreaction, then complacency, then overconfidence, then gloom... our tragedy could be plotted through our own thought-free sentiments, almost like a data scientist's Covid-19 graph. Having been handed a harsh lesson last year, we should have learnt. But instead of care and vigil, we instilled a taste for profligacy. Now our lives will never be the same again. There's no Central Vista where our past and present will intersect neatly with a salubrious future. Too many people have died needlessly for that.

We were playing fast and loose, kindling those animal spirits that went missing from the economy, and chasing votes, when the virus returned in sundry mutant avatars, like some mythical demon. By then, the Covid care centres had been dismantled, oxygen plants were breathing easy, and vaccines had been sent abroad. The viral tsunami hit us hard because we were walking tall pretending to be millionaires. The US and Russia had stocked up or pre-ordered. We were convinced about our own infallibility. We had Poonawalla, we had an indigenous brand too, what could possibly go wrong? Well, when the dam broke, our reservoirs emptied out double quick.

> The new saviour transport also tells us how far we're from the five-trillion-dollar economy dream. The first wave of corona had already mauled our economy; we could scarcely wait to get up before the count of ten. ... There won't be any economy to revive if there are no people

Karnataka, which has a "double engine" government, has suspended vaccination for the 18-45 age-group even before it could start. Now it's telling its 45+ citizens enrolled for the second dose to come back after 12-16 weeks. They are even spinning a fraudulent medical rationale around it. Ministers are frothing at the mouth at how the courts are decreeing that normalcy be restored—that vaccines and oxygen must flow. "Where will we get oxygen from? There's not enough supply. Or vaccines? There's no production. The courts have no business getting into matters of administration!" one blurted out.

Remember when the courts got into auctioning spectrum and managing cricket? Who clapped then? Most of them did. No one then listened to Manmohan Singh's feeble-voiced warning about an "international conspiracy". Now we're all being warned on WhatsApp about global agents of evil who want to show us down, and turn us into psychological wrecks by displaying images of distress and death, particularly in VIP city Varanasi. WhatsApp University is not to be taken lightly—we are after all ruled by a Kingdom of Messaging.

But the university of life first. We don't have enough RT-PCR kits—a medium-sized lab gets 15,000 requests for testing on an average, each day, in one single zone of a city. The only way out is vaccination. The second wave has already taken away family, friends, acquaintances. How do we organise ourselves before the third, fourth and who knows how many more waves hit us? There won't be any economy to revive if there are no people. The situation is so dire that states are now calling for global tenders to secure their people. Their own scanty treasuries will bleed further.

But what about PMCares? Well, if the PM really cares—and there are no signs yet that he does—he would not leave all the people in the states to fend for themselves. All Indians live in the states, remember? Only 3.82 crore Indians—2.8% of our population—have been fully vaccinated. A 'New New Delhi' will not solve that crisis. No new monument can create the desired history if it stands on a bed of shrieking cadavers.

(santwana@newindianexpress.com)

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY KEY IN LAND ACQUISITION

NANDINI SARANGI
Assistant Professor at XIM University, Bhubaneswar

Post-Covid, India needs a significant boost in investment to come out of the economic devastation caused by the pandemic. In the past, delay in land acquisition and associated involuntary displacement have led to project delays and failures. In recent times, corporate houses and governments have handled displacement much better by clearly identifying failure to carry out resettlement of affected families as a critical project risk. Many new highway and railway projects have gained momentum as a consequence. In the private sector too, there have been some successful resettlements. These show that if project promoters can work on a participatory model and focus on benefit sharing, investments can fructify, adding to employment and growth.

Rehabilitation and resettlement of the population affected by displacement has evolved in India over time. It is now clearly understood that the colonial construct of an eminent domain, the power of the state to appropriate property within the state for a public use, cannot be invoked in a coercive manner. Anti-displacement movements against the missile test range in Baliapal in Odisha, the movement against the Sardar Sarovar project, the Singur agitation, etc., have shown that all stakeholders have to agree to a peaceful negotiated settlement based on a realistic understanding of the market value of land. There must also be adequate benefit sharing. Promoters, who are going to make millions, cannot get away by just paying a paltry amount for the land. Undoubtedly, a patch of land, inherited by a family, can be exchanged for money and a job by the current generation. But once it is given away, the family has nothing to pass forward to the next generation. Companies can persuade families to give up land by offering an attractive price, good enough to create greed. Money will be expended in a few years and no company will commit to employing successive generations who will be landless. Unfortunately, most of the land needed for industries and infrastructure projects are in the possession of the poor and vulnerable sections of our society. Their ability to negotiate a good deal is limited. Besides, many of them lack the skills to earn a living in a market-driven situation without compassionate hand-holding. So, a welfare state must protect their best interest by policy mechanisms.

The concept of intergenerational equity is widely used in the context of global warming, climate change and environmental justice. It is now acknowledged that the next generations have a right to inherit this planet in a form in which human civilisation can continue to flourish. The current generation has unrestricted control, but not rights over natural resources. Our rights are limited by the moral imperative not to degrade the environment so fundamentally that the next generation will find it difficult to survive. The same concept applies to family land and assets. They have been inherited and have to be passed on. This has happened for generations and must continue to happen in the future. In the professional classes, each generation invests in producing the next generation of professionals who have the knowledge and skills to make a living. Education and professional training mitigate the risks of loss of livelihood.

Agencies carrying out displacement must desist from taking advantage of vulnerability by buying them out or worse, use the state's coercive resources to grab land. There must be a compassionate and honest delivery of intergenerational equity and justice. That must be the focus of all policies and practices of involuntary displacement.

> Intergenerational equity is now understood as a core principle in the discourse on environmental justice and sustainability ... The government will have to play the role of an honest broker and give the displaced families a good deal that will pass on to subsequent generations

One of the successful cases of involuntary displacement is the acquisition of land for a steel plant at Kalinganagar in Odisha by the Tatas. This is one of the largest successful displacements in the last two decades. Even in Kalinganagar, the initial attempts led to violence, with the deaths of 13 Adivasis in police firing. This was post-Singur and another disaster was looming large in India's investment scenario. But once it was decided by both the state government and the company that the displacement had to be carried out peacefully and the guidance of development specialists was taken, new methodologies opened up. The vulnerable population could be ring-fenced to deal with immediate loss of livelihood and community assets, and the trauma of losing house, hearth and community life. Besides jobs being provided to affected families, an attempt was made to get children of these families trained as professionals and blue-collar workers. The entire education, whether in a private or a government institution, including tuition fee and hostel charges, were fully paid for directly to the institutions. All that these children required was an offer of admission. Children from displaced families went to medical and engineering colleges as well as diploma schools and were given a head-start with the hope that they would secure a job on merit and look after the next generation. This was neither mandated in the state government policy nor in the one agreed to by the company with the government.

In all large projects, promoters must be committed to eliminating childhood poverty by ensuring food, nutrition and education. If this kind of a progressive approach is not taken, the next generation will most likely be worse off than the current one and become landless and poor. They will then need state support for livelihood, food security, etc. Therefore, without consideration of the concept of intergenerational equity, displacement will limit benefit sharing to the current generation.

Intergenerational equity is now understood as a core principle in the discourse on environmental justice and sustainability. The time has come for the concept to be applied more widely to other areas of social policymaking. This is more so when it comes to social development involving more vulnerable sections of society. The consequent policy changes may often be incremental. But such a focus will bring in clarity and easier resolution of opposition to involuntary displacement, which has become a major reason for project delays and project failures. There is now a consensus that when it comes to involuntary displacement, the scope of use of state coercion is minimal. The government will have to play the role of an honest broker and give the displaced families a good deal that will pass on to subsequent generations.

(nandini@xub.edu.in)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Internal patent waiver

Instead of just seeking a consensus at the WTO, as the editorial *Think out of the box to scale up Covaxin production* (May 13) points out, it is time to ramp up domestic vaccine production through internal patent waivers. The government can adopt this strategy to vaccinate villages and safeguard rural India from the havoc of Covid.

P Sabareeshwaran, Chennai

Need utmost caution

The suggestion of an internal patent waiver can be adopted by the government to meet the surge in demand for vaccines. However any laxity in licencing norms will lead to the production of sub-standard vaccines. The government should exercise utmost caution and first put in place a foolproof quality-testing mechanism.

Hemanth Bhide, Mangaluru

Be disciplined

This is with reference to *Covid pandemic: Let us look at ourselves too* (May 13). From December to March, people went to parties, marriages, tourists spots and even election rallies without following proper Covid protocol. Due to the negligence of the government and people, the second Covid wave has hit us hard. We need to be disciplined to combat the third wave.

Anula Singh, Bengaluru

Don't get complacent

There is a sliver of optimism about the plateauing of Covid numbers. But we should not get complacent and become indifferent to Covid norms. This is how the second wave caught and hit us, pulling the country down. Let us not just blame the government when things go terribly wrong. People must be aware and vigilant and keep on drilling the norms into their family , neighbours and locality.

Padma Ramnath, email

Prevent crowding

Lockdowns are not a permanent solution against the spread of infection. Crowding at any point causes the infection to spread fast. Therefore that has to be stopped by all means. Be it places of worship or a market, a virtual queuing system has to be brought in and time slots reserved for people. Only such an arrangement will be a permanent remedy as no one can say how long the pandemic will continue.

J J Vellara, Kozhikode

Lockdown criteria

The ICMR chief has suggested that districts with Covid test positivity ratio above 10% should remain under lockdown. But it should not be the only criteria to assess corona spread in a place as it can change with ramped-up testing. A better way would be to also check the increase in the number of new cases, total active cases, deaths per lakh of population, etc.

Umesh Chandra Mishra, Bhubaneswar

A true fighter

The passing away of table tennis great V Chandrasekhar has removed from our midst an outstanding player who won three national titles before a botched-up operation drew the curtains on his career (*Fighter on and off the table: Chandra's life story*, May 13). Chandra fought back tenaciously and played an admirable innings as a coach mentoring stars like Chetan Baboor and G Sathiyan.

CV Aravind, Bengaluru

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Global rating agency Fitch warns India with its tardy vaccination drive is vulnerable to more Covid waves of deadlier mutations. PM Modi listening ?

Manish Tewari @ManishTewari
Be positive: For there is no NDA/BJP government if you test positive

Prakash Javadekar @PrakashJavdekar
In another step to augment the efforts to fight the pandemic, PM-CARES Fund has sanctioned procurement of 1.5 lakh units of Oxycare System

People wait outside a Covid-19 vaccination centre in Prayagraj on Thursday | PTI

Maha tribal district records high Covid mortality

SUDHIR SUYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE positivity rate among Covid patients is significantly dropping in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur. But the tribal district of Nandurbar has been recording high mortality for the last two weeks in Maharashtra.

The state government's weekly report said mortality in Nandurbar between May 5 and May 11 was 5.70%, higher than the state average of 1.35%. Mortality between April 28 and May 2 was 3.60% in Nandurbar against the state average of 1.34%. In April 21-27, it was 1.14% in the district.

Nanded follows Nandurbar in the Marathwada region which has been witnessing a high mortality of 3.76% over the last three weeks. It had 3.35% mortality between April 28 and May 4 and 5.57% last week, said the report.

Latur and Osmanabad are the other two districts in Marathwada which have registered high mortality — 2.54% and 2.39%, respectively, between May 5-11. Interestingly, mortality in Maharashtra has also been rising for three weeks. It was 0.64% between April 14 and April 20. The rate rose to 1.08% from April 21-27 and crept up 1.34% in April 28-May 4. Last week (May 5-11), the mortality rate was 1.32% in the state.

Nandurbar has reported 2,691 active cases and 688 cumulative deaths. In Maharashtra, there are 5,46,129 active cases with 78,007 cumulative deaths.

Dr Rajendra Barud, collector of Nandurbar, told the paper that positivity was only 5%. "We are getting less than 100 positive patients daily from the entire district, but only 5-6 people have succumbed. Besides, there are some backlog deaths that were added this week. However, positivity and mortality are normal at 5% and 1.07% respectively. We are trying to ensure that no one dies of Covid 19," said Barud.

He said after the second wave, Nandurbar is the only district to not face oxygen shortage. "We set up generation plants after the first wave. That is helping in a big way. Situation is under control," he said.

Just four states vaccinated more women than men

While Kerala, K'taka inoculate more women, gender divide is above 10% in Delhi and UP

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

AS states report shortage of Covid-19 jabs and people make a mad rush to book vaccination slots, gender divide in the vaccination drive is quite visible across states. Only four states — Kerala, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh — have vaccinated more women than men so far.

As per official data, the gender gap in vaccination is over 4 per cent nationally but high-Covid burden states like Delhi and Uttar Pradesh have over 10 per cent difference in male-female vaccination ratio.

However, two high-burden states Kerala and Karnataka have vaccinated more women than men. Also in the list are Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir have the widest difference in male, female vaccination numbers in the country, with around 14 per cent.

The gender divide in vaccination is also visible in some Northeastern states even though the number of Covid cases reported in these states are less when compared to high-burden states. Nagaland at 14.3 per cent tops the list with widest gender divide followed by Jammu and Kashmir with 13.76 per cent. States like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh have male-female vaccine difference between 10-13 per cent. The figure is around 11 per cent for Chandigarh.

Amid reports of some vaccinated people developing mild-to-moderate Covid-19 symptoms, there has been a rush to book slots amid shortage of the jabs.

Among the total 17.78 crore beneficiaries vaccinated so far (as per latest data on CoWIN portal) in the country, 7.3 crore are male, 6.5 crore female and 19,000 others. As many as 20,375 cases of after-effects of vaccination have also been reported.

The central government has opened vaccination for people in age group 18-44 years from May 1 but stated that they will have to pay for both the doses. However, some state governments have announced to provide free vaccination to all age groups who are residents of the respective states.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to support kids orphaned in pandemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhopal/Raipur

MADHYA Pradesh became the first state to come to the aid of children who have become orphans or lost one of their parents/guardians in the Covid-19 pandemic. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said all these children/families will get ₹5,000 as monthly pension. In the evening, Chhattisgarh, too, said the state government will bear the cost of education of children orphaned by Covid.

Chouhan said these children will be given free education and ration. He also announced that the surviving parent/guardian/kin taking care of the child/children will get interest-free loans to start a business to keep them going.

These announcements come five days after this newspaper started a series on children left orphaned in the second wave of the pandemic.

The Chhattisgarh government headed by Bhupesh Baghel said the Covid orphans will be covered under the Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular Scheme from the ongoing academic session. Irrespective of government or private schools, these students will get a yearly scholarship. The amount is Rs 500 from Class I-VIII and Rs 1,000 for Class IX-XII.

Task force in Maha

The Maharashtra government has decided to form a task force to identify children orphaned by the pandemic and help them. Yashomati Thakur, Minister for Women and Child Development, said these will be formed at the district level.

BROTHERS LEAVE CITY, UNAWARE OF TRAGIC REALITY

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

APRIL 28 was usual in its sameness and grim in its foreboding: A Covid-induced lockdown had forced most residents of Chhattisgarh's capital indoors. Pankaj (5) and Mohan (8) — names changed — played with other kids near their one-room rented home in the Kushabhau Thakre area. The kids were told their father was unwell and taken to hospital.

Four days later, their mother was admitted to the same hospital. On May 4, their parents died. The kids were not told of the tragedy. The last rites were performed by Raipur Municipal Corporation authorities as per Covid protocol.

When their parents were in hospital, neighbours provided food and care to the children. They didn't know how to handle the kids. Nobody knew exactly where the family arrived from to settle in Raipur to work as daily wagers.

"A day after their death, we knocked on their door, the children came out and started looking for their parents. We comforted them by saying God is there to help. They didn't demand anything except food. They were at ease in our presence and stayed indoors," said Raghu Yadav, a neighbour.

Three days passed, and the neighbours still could not muster the courage to tell the kids about the tragedy. The couple was engaged in construction works under the Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) scheme. The BSUP seeks to address the needs of some of the lowest-income and most vulnerable urban dwellers.

COVID'S ORPHANS PART-5

"First, the husband and later the wife fell ill. It was with Covid. The man died and two days later, the wife also succumbed", says Sushila Dheevar, corporator of Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC). She avoided revealing the names and details of the couple. "Our party has told us not to share personal details of patients we support. Such people are unsettled migrant labourers, they stay as long as they remain engaged. I don't know anything about the children," she said.

Pankaj and Mohan had some inkling about the virus that has made a lot of people sick. They felt like any other illness, their parents would also be cured of it. Mukesh Srivas, a local social worker, quoted a doctor as saying that the parents were brought late to the hospital. "Doctors felt the delay in medical care apparently pushed back chances of recovery," said Srivas, who has helped many during this crisis.

Dheevar and others interacted with the kids and got some information about their relatives who could be reached. Finally, the kids' paternal grandparents were contacted over the phone. "Their grandparents live in some remote village of Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. They were deeply shocked after learning about the deaths. They came to Raipur and took the children along with them to Allahabad," said Manohar Chand, a resident of the ward.

INDIA'S COVID UPDATES

37,10,525
Active cases

15.65% of total infections are active

83.26% National Covid-19 recovery rate

1,97,34,823
Number of people recuperated

1.09% Is the national cumulative fatality rate

30,94,48,585
samples tested up to **May 12**

18,64,594
samples tested on **Thursday**

INDIA'S COVID-19 TALLY HAD CROSSED	
20 LAKH	AUGUST 7, 2020
30 LAKH	AUGUST 23
40 LAKH	SEPTEMBER 5
50 LAKH	SEPTEMBER 16
60 LAKH	SEPTEMBER 28
70 LAKH	OCTOBER 11
80 LAKH	OCTOBER 29
90 LAKH	NOVEMBER 20
1 CRORE	DECEMBER 19
2 CRORE	MAY 4, 2021

PM Modi to hold video conference with 100 DMs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will hold a video conference with district magistrates of 100 districts with high caseloads of Covid-19, on May 18 and 20. The chief ministers of 19 states will also participate during the video conference during which the Prime Minister is likely to stress on micro-containment, testing, tracing and treatment strategy.

On May 18, the PM will speak to district magistrates of 46 districts in nine states and cover another 54 districts on May 20, said a senior official. The district administrations, incidentally, have been made accountable for the supply chain management of Covid-19 critical care interventions, including oxygen and medicines, as per an order of the Ministry of Home Affairs last month under the National Disaster Management Act (NDMA).

Modi to release eighth Kisan Nidhi installment

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the eighth installment of the financial benefits under the "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi" (PM-KISAN) scheme on Friday via video-conferencing. Over Rs 19,000 crore to more than 9.5 crore beneficiary farmer families will be transferred, the PMO said in a statement

While the PM has held video conference meetings with chief ministers after the onset of the second wave, he will be speaking to district magistrates for the first time. After his last video conference with chief ministers, the Centre had unveiled guidelines by allowing the states to procure vaccines for the 18-44 age group.

The PM in recent days has held video conference meetings to review the availability of oxygen and the status of the medicines for the Covid-19.

Civil services exam deferred

New Delhi: Amid the surge in Covid-19 cases in the country, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has decided to postpone the Civil Services preliminary exam, which was scheduled to be held on 27 June. "The Union Public Service Commission has deferred the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2021, which was scheduled to be held on 27th June, 2021. Now, this Examination will be held on 10th October, 2021," the UPSC has said.

Two more states opt global buy

Chandigarh: Both Punjab and Haryana governments have decided to float global tenders for sourcing Covid vaccines. A meeting of the Punjab cabinet took the decision besides approving purchase of Covaxin for industrial workers, for whose vaccination the industries sector has expressed willingness to bear the cost. Meanwhile, Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said that global tendering will be done for the purchase of Covid vaccines for the people of the state.

Maha extends lockdown till June 1

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government on Thursday extended lockdown in the state till June 1 to contain the spread of coronavirus. According to a state government order, it is now mandatory to carry a negative RT-PCR report to enter the state through any mode of transport. Meanwhile, Maharashtra which is the top contributor to the daily new Covid-19 infections in the country has reported a major decline in new infections. State Health minister Rajesh Tope said that the positivity growth in Maharashtra is 0.8 per cent against India's average 1.5 per cent.

TENSE WAIT

People with Covid-19 symptoms wait to undergo RT-PCR tests in Kolkata on Thursday | PTI

Times Group chairperson Indu Jain dies at the age of 84

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

INDU Jain, the chairperson of Times Group, died on Thursday at the age of 84. It was learnt that she died of complications arising out of coronavirus infection, in a hospital in the national capital.

Jain was the founder of the Times Foundation, the company's vehicle for philanthropic activities, and also founded the women's wing of the industry lobby FICCI. She was awarded Padma Vibhushan, the third highest civilian honour in the country, in 2016.

According to reports, from 1999, she also served as chairperson of Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust, founded in 1944 by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain, her father-in-law, to promote literature in Indian languages. The Jnanpith Award, conferred by the Trust annually, is the most prestigious honour for authors writing in Indian languages.

Distinguished figures from several walks of life expressed grief at Jain's death. "Saddened by the demise of Times Group Chairperson Smt. Indu Jain Ji. She will be remembered for her community service initiatives, passion towards India's progress and deep-rooted interest in our culture. I recall my interactions with her. Om Shanti," tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi

More bodies found floating, shallow graves along banks of Ganga in UP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Lucknow

AMID dead bodies being found floating in the Ganga in eastern UP districts, shallow graves have also been reported on the banks of the river in central parts of the state even as the Yogi Adityanath government maintains that Covid-19 cases and positivity rate in the state are declining.

A few days after reports emerged about dozens of bodies found floating on the banks of the Ganga in eastern districts of Ghazipur, Ballia and Chandauli, at least seven bodies were found on Thursday floating in the river near Sujabad village in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

People arrive to perform the last rites of deceased relatives on the banks of Ganga in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday | PTI

Ved Prakash Rai, SHO of the Ramnagar police station of Varanasi district, said: "There were seven bodies, many of which were partially decomposed, which were found floating near Sujabad village. All these bodies were retrieved and buried safely as per safety protocol."

Meanwhile, sources said in Ghazipur, Ballia and Chandauli districts of east UP, dozens of bodies have been found floating in the Ganga along the UP-Bihar border in the last few days.

Ballia district magistrate Aditi Singh said: "Village pradhans of nearby villages failed to identify the bodies since these were badly decomposed. The last rites of the bodies were performed by following safety protocols. The local SDM is looking into the matter."

Around 450 km away in central UP's Unnao district, dozens of shallow graves have been found. Videos of stray dogs invading and digging these graves have gone viral.

Unnao collector Ravindra Kumar said the graves found at Buxar Ghat (Bighapur) are located in Unnao, but are very close to Rae Bareli and Fatehpur district also.

NHRC notice to Centre, UP & Bihar over corpses in river

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

TAKING notice of reports about floating dead bodies in the Ganga, the National Human Rights Commission has observed that public authorities seem to have failed to take concentric efforts in educating the masses and checking the immersion of half-burnt or unburnt dead bodies into the river.

The rights panel has sought action taken reports within four weeks from the Centre, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar governments over complaints about several dead bodies found floating in the Ganga.

NHRC termed the practice of disposal of dead bodies in the Ganga as clearly in violation of guidelines of the National Mission for Clean Ganga project. It noted that "no person shall do any act or carry on any project which has the effect of causing pollution in the River Ganga".

LIGHTNING KILLS 18 JUMBOS

Eighteen elephants died in lightning strikes at a forest in Nagaon district of Assam, a senior Forest Department official said on Thursday. The incident happened on Wednesday night at a hill in the Kathiatoli range

3 HELD FOR RAPE OF WOMAN IN THANE

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	28	Mumbai	34	28
Bhopal	39	24	Panaji	34	28
Jaipur	38	27	Patna	32	23
Amritsar	39	23	Lucknow	36	25
Chennai	33	27	Port Blair	38	28
Kolkata	32	24	Imphal	29	17
Srinagar	23	13	Chandigarh	38	24

Mamata attacks Guv over visit to violence-hit areas

Says Dhankar's trip violates long-standing norms, accuses him of by-passing state's council of ministers by dictating directly to state officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee were engaged in an intense faceoff on Friday after the CM wrote to the Governor criticising his visit to the areas affected by post-poll violence. She also accused the governor of bypassing the state council of ministers and dictating directly to state officials, which against the Constitution.

Responding to Mamata, Dhankhar tweeted, "In time of such unprecedented crisis @MamataOfficial there was a need to act in togetherness with all concerned, including the Governor. It was no time for optics or playing to the gallery when we are in the midst of unprecedented post-poll retributive violence."

Tensions rose in Cooch Behar district over the governor's visit on Thursday. He was shown black flags in Dinhata and Sitalkuchi, two places where four people were gunned down by the central forces on the day of the election.

Coming down heavily on Dhankhar, the CM, in her letter, said, "I had requested and specifically advised you to refrain from surpassing the Chief Minister and her council of ministers and communicating with dictating the State officials, in excess of your power under the Constitution and directing them to attend before you. I find you that you are steadily ignoring this advice, solemnly rendered by me to you, and have been communicating with and dictating the State officials. You have also been seeking reports from them directly. I urge you and again request and advise you to refrain from this. I am asking my Chief Secretary to go by this norm."

Mamata described Dhankhar's visit to the district as a decision taken unilaterally. She found it to be violative of the long-standing norms that have evolved over several decades.

Dhankhar was shown black flags at three places in north Bengal's Cooch Behar. In Dinhata constituency, where the BJP won by a razor-thin margin of 57 votes, the governor lost his cool when a group of people shouting "go back" blocked his road. He came out of his vehicle and scolded police officials. "What the hell you are doing?" he was heard asking the incharge of the local police station. "This is a total collapse of rule of law, I could never imagine such a thing could happen," he told reporters.

People are in mortal fear of police @WBPolice and ruling dispensation workers. A dozen ruling party workers could stop my convoy, with no fear of law and police — Jagdeep Dhankar, West Bengal Governor

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar meets those affected by the post-election violence in Cooch Behar on Thursday | PTI

INTROSPECTION

EC sets up panel to study recent polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission has decided to set up a core committee, headed by its secretary general, to identify the lessons, experiences and shortcomings from the five states and a UT, which went to polls recently.

The committee is tasked with identifying the measures to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework that will enable the ECI to more effectively ensure compliance of its guidelines or directions, including on Covid.

It will also identify the shortcomings or gaps in ECI's regulatory regime, if any and the gaps in implementation and enforcement at the level of CEOs/district officials.

Besides, it will also identify the steps that need to be taken to ensure discharge of responsibility, like enforcement of Covid protocol by the agencies mandated under respective regulatory regime to do so irrespective of and in addition to the ECI guidelines.

The Election Commission said the recommendations of the core committee will help it chalk out the way forward in holding the polls in future.

Moreover, it will also look into measures to further strengthen the expenditure management regulation for inducement-free election

EID MUBARAK

Muslims celebrate with fireworks after sighting the moon on the eve of Eid-al-Fitr, in Varanasi, on Thursday | PTI

Assam NRC seeks full data re-verification, tells SC major irregularities in updation

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

HIGHLIGHTING "major irregularities" in the updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) of 1951 in Assam, the NRC has moved the Supreme Court seeking a comprehensive and time-bound re-verification of the register.

NRC's Assam coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma had filed an interlocutory application on May 8. It was accepted on May 11. He prayed that the SC passes appropriate directions for a complete, comprehensive and time-bound re-verification of the draft NRC as well as the supplementary list of NRC under the provision of the Clause 4(3) of the Schedule of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules 2003, where major irregularities have been highlighted in the body of the instant application.

"Pass appropriate directions that the re-verification is done under the supervision of a monitoring committee in the respective districts and such committee may be preferably represented by the respective District Judge, District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police," he prayed.

Citing anomalies, Sarma, in his application, wrote that on June 28, 2019, the District Magistrate of Kamrup had submitted a report stating that 1,43,522 people applied for NRC from the Chamaria Circle. Out of them, 64,247 were marked as Original Inhabitants (OIs). Their names were entered in the draft NRC. However, after some random verification, it emerged that 14,183 did not fall under the category of Original Inhabitants.

"A special verification was quickly carried out against 30,791 people under Chamaria Circle. During re-verification, 7,446 people were found ineligible for inclusion in the supplementary list. Out of these, eight were foreigners, two were descendants of declared foreigners, 19 were doubtful voters, 43 were descendants of doubtful voters, 13 cases were pending in the foreigners' tribunal, and 10 were descendants of those whose cases were pending," the application reads.

Facilitated tech transfer between Bharat Biotech and 2 PSUs: Govt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HE, however, added that the government will support any firm that is interested in going for this major technical upgradation to scale up the production of Covaxin. Many experts, however, said that more than anything, it is the political will that would be required for an ambitious venture like this.

"If the whole of India needs to be vaccinated against Covid-19 in a year, the country will need to produce at least 50-55 million doses everyday and for that to start happening in 2-3 months from now, the government needs to plan today," said R Ramakumar, economist with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai.

"It should ask Bharat Biotech to transfer technology and quickly start empowering other vaccine makers to produce the vaccine on a large scale but that needs a quick and strong decision making now," he told this newspaper.

For May-June, the expected doses of Covaxin for India per month is 2 crore while it is expected to reach 6-7 crore per month in July-August.

Those rooting for an aggressive escalation of India's Covid19 vaccination programme said this number should go to ideally at least 15 crore a month. Former Union health secretary Sujatha K Rao said that there are 6-8 companies, including some PSUs, which need to be immediately roped in by the Centre.

"These companies have the production capacity and as far as safety and quality norms are concerned that can be raised by hand-holding the firms now so that Covaxin's production is raised by a significant proportion in a few months," she said.

For its part, the Centre rebutted criticism that it is not doing enough on raising the production of Covaxin, saying it has facilitated technology transfer between Bharat Biotech and two central PSUs —Indian Immunologicals Ltd and Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Ltd—and one Maharashtra government undertaking, Haffkine Institute.

US govt report voices concerns over state of religious freedom in India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE International Religious Freedom Report for 2020, prepared by the US State Department and submitted to the US Congress, has expressed concerns about the discrimination and violence faced by religious and ethnic minorities in India.

"Among the issues discussed were the Muslim community's concerns about the CAA, difficulties faced by faith-based NGOs in the wake of amendments to the FCRA, and allegations that Muslims spread the Covid-19 virus," the report noted. It further observed that there were "reports of religiously motivated killings, assaults, riots, discrimination, vandalism, and actions restricting the right of individuals to practice and speak about their religious beliefs".

The report is an annual document submitted to the US Congress that documents major instances of the violation of religious freedom across the world. It was released by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

According to the section of the report that deals with India, US officials including those from the Embassy, during meetings with their Indian counterparts, have stressed on the importance of religious freedom and the responsibility of democracies to ensure the rights of religious minorities. India has consistently dismissed such reports from the US, claiming there is no locus standi for foreign governments to assess the state of its citizens with regard to rights that are guaranteed and protected by the Constitution.

Saying that at least 10 of 28 Indian states have laws that restrict religious conversions, the report states that citizens must practice their religion in a way that they do not adversely affect health, morality or public order.

Report praises Modi's message of brotherhood

The report took note of the message of 'unity and brotherhood' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after members of the Tablighi Jamaat last year were being targeted in the wake of the first wave of Covid-19. "Prime Minister Modi tweeted on April 19, 'COVID-19 does not see race, religion, colour, caste, creed, language or borders before striking. Our response and conduct thereafter should attach primacy to unity and brotherhood'," the State Department noted

Indian Army officers exchange sweets with Pakistan Army officers at Poonch-Rawlakot and Mendhar Hotspring (Tatapani) check post | PTI

Armies of India, Pakistan exchange sweets on Eid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Line of Control between India and Pakistan saw a pleasant change on Thursday with the soldiers of both India and Pakistan exchanging sweets and pleasantries on the occasion of Eid.

The soldiers met at multiple points in different districts of Jammu and Kashmir. It is being said that this show of bonhomie and harmony will help create an atmosphere of trust on both sides.

"On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, the tradition of exchanging sweets between India and Pakistan on major festivals like Eid, Holi, Diwali and respective National days was revived and meetings were held at the Tithwal crossing on Kishanganga River in Tangdhar, Kupwara & Kaman Aman Setu in Uri to exchange sweets and pleasantries," the Indian Army said in a statement.

"Indian Army and Pakistan Army celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr on the Line of Control (LoC) at Poonch-Rawalakot Crossing Point and Mendhar-Hotspring Crossing Point in Poonch district," the Army statement said.

The ceremony is seen as a confidence-building measure, in the backdrop of the recently agreed ceasefire.

The gesture was appreciated by both the Armies and is expected to promote goodwill and mutual trust. The two countries agreed to strict observance of ceasefire along the Line of Control and other sectors with effect from February 25.

BRICS agrees to devise framework for social security agreement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE first meeting of BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) was held virtually from May 11-12, during which, member-countries agreed to formulate a framework on Social Security Agreement.

"Social Security Agreement would help the international workers to port their benefit to their home countries thereby preventing loss of their hard-earned money. Further they will be exempted from contributing both in home as well as host countries," the labour ministry said in a statement.

The Indian delegation was led by Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra. Besides representatives from four other member-states (Russia, Brazil, China and South Africa), representatives from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Social Security Agency (ISSA) also took part in the virtual meet.

The member countries agreed to promote women's participation in remunerative, productive and decent work and to extend social security to them — Joint statement

Discussions during the two-day event focused on promoting Social Security Agreements amongst BRICS nations, formalisation of labour markets, participation of women in labour force and gig workers.

According to the ministry, member nations discussed various initiatives taken by them towards the formalisation of jobs and how Covid-19 has enhanced informalisation of risk.

"On the participation of women in the labour force, the member countries resolved to promote their participation in remunerative, productive and decent work and to extend social security cover to the women workers engaged in informal sector."

"Impact of Covid-19 on the participation of women in labour force was also discussed," the statement added.

Govt distributes masks, gloves to Covid warriors

Mitanin, a group of community health workers, that has been active in the fight against Covid-19 in rural areas of Chhattisgarh, has been given face masks, hand sanitisers, gloves, gum boots and caps at the behest of chief minister Bhupesh Baghel to ensure their safety. An event was held in the state's Bemetra district, where Collector Shiv Anant Tayal distributed the items to Mitanins. "There is a greater need to keep safe the health workers who protect the people. They play vital roles in alleviating the sufferings and saving lives," Tayal said. Bemetra district has done remarkably well in limiting the new Covid cases and fatalities.

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

RAIPUR DIARY

State govt launches app to help 18+ register for jab

Chhattisgarh government has launched 'CG-Teeka', a vaccination app, for people in the 18 to 44 age-group to help them register for vaccination and avoid long queues at the designated vaccine centres. The new app is likely to bring a much-needed relief to the intended beneficiaries. The app's web portal offers a quick and convenient registration, even for those who don't have a cellphone or internet facility. They can get it done via the help desk set up at panchayats, urban bodies and municipal corporations. People have to upload their personal details on *http://cgteeka.cgstate.gov.in/user-registration*. The state authorities said there are four categories that cover the 18-plus segment—Antodaya, BPL, APL and frontline workers for vaccination.

Municipal Corporation comes to the aid of needy

Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) is reaching out to the poor to help meet their food requirements amid a raging pandemic. More than 100 packets are being distributed in each of the 70 wards of the RMC every day to those who do not have ration cards. The ongoing lockdown in the state capital has mostly affected the poor and the marginalised sections of the society. "During the present challenging situation several underprivileged and daily-wage earners are facing hardships. Our team will ensure that the ration packets reach them," said Aijaz Dhebhar, RMC Mayor.

Balco embraces smart technologies to protect staff amid Covid

Amid the pandemic, the nation's iconic aluminium producer Balco has deployed a smart combination of high-end technology and indigenous innovations to ensure the health and safety of its employees. Balco has integrated smart automation into its plant operations that has reduced the need for manual interventions. It has set up end-to-end digital dashboards for real-time data and trend monitoring of the power plant operations, leading to the digitalisation of the entire process.

17 mn

The drive to vaccinate US' 17 million adolescents against Covid-19 kicked off on Thursday

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	20	5	SNY	Los Angeles	24	8	SNY
Colombo	30	26	TDS	Melbourne	24	16	TDS
Dhaka	28	16	SNY	Moscow	18	7	LC
Dubai	26	17	SNY	New York	14	6	SNY
Houston	24	16	SNY	Singapore	31	26	TDS
Istanbul	16	7	LC	Toronto	9	4	SNY
London	12	1	LC	Washington	16	7	LC

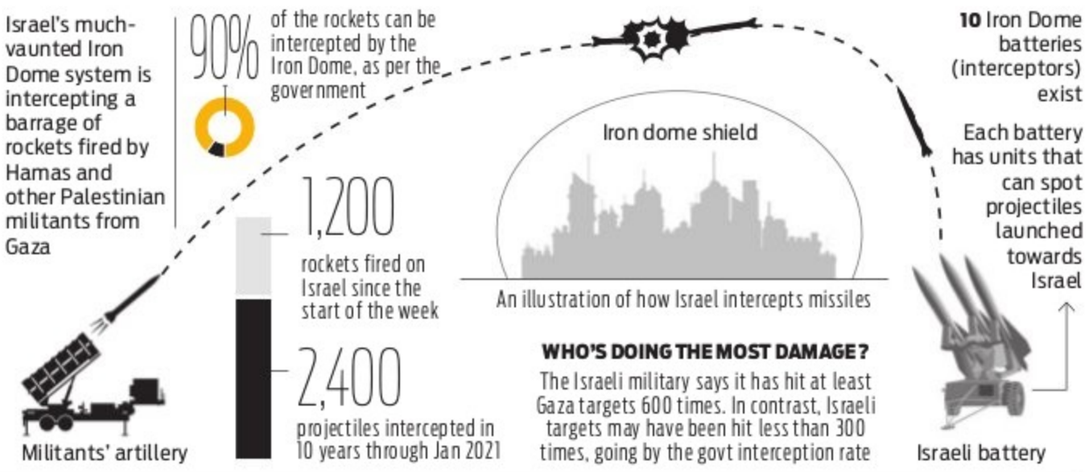
Israel's two fronts: Rockets from Gaza & violence in cities

Israel's much-vaunted Iron Dome system is intercepting a barrage of rockets fired by Hamas and other Palestinian militants from Gaza

90% of the rockets can be intercepted by the Iron Dome, as per the government

1,200 rockets fired on Israel since the start of the week

2,400 projectiles intercepted in 10 years through Jan 2021



An illustration of how Israel intercepts missiles

Militants' artillery

Israeli battery

10 Iron Dome batteries (interceptors) exist

Each battery has units that can spot projectiles launched towards Israel

WHO'S DOING THE MOST DAMAGE?

The Israeli military says it has hit at least Gaza targets 600 times. In contrast, Israeli targets may have been hit less than 300 times, going by the govt interception rate

IRON DOME'S BACKERS

Developed by Israeli firms Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries, and partly funded by the US (**$5 bn** spent in 2016 alone)

VIOLENCE WITHIN ISRAEL

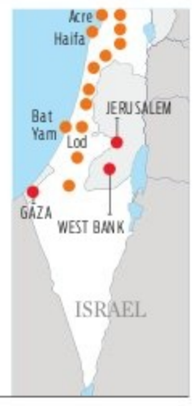
Map shows the cities where clashes, riots and attacks are taking place. Those that are marked with names are some of the cities where Jews and Arabs have lived together for years

20% of Israel's population is Arabs

1,000 border police deployed to quell the violence

CIVIL WAR LOOMING?

Issawi Fredj, an Arab deputy from the Meretz party, said the images of a far-right Israeli mob savagely beating a man they thought was an Arab were a sign the country was heading towards a "civil war"



Israel masses troops near Gaza border

MILITARY SAYS PREPARING FOR GROUND ATTACK AS AIRSTRIKES CONTINUE; MEANWHILE, JEW-ARAB RIOTS ERUPT INSIDE COUNTRY

In Gaza city, a ball of fire engulfs the Al-Walid building on Thursday after an airstrike. On the right, a family in Israel stands inside a home damaged by a rocket | AFP, AP

GAZA CITY

ISRAEL deployed additional troops to Gaza's border on Thursday as the military conflict with Palestinian Islamists raged on, while inside Israel security forces scrambled to contain deadly riots between Jews and Arabs.

Army tanks shelled the Palestinian enclave and AFP reporters saw troops assembling at the security barrier. But the armed forces maintained a ground offensive was not the primary focus of the operation against Palestinian militants.

"We are prepared, and continue to prepare for various scenarios," army spokesman Jonathan Conricus said, describing a ground offensive as "one scenario".

With the Gaza conflict showing no signs of easing, Israel has been rocked by an unprecedented wave of mob violence, in which both Arabs and Jews have been savagely beaten and police stations attacked.

Defence Minister Benny Gantz ordered a "massive reinforcement" to suppress the internal unrest.

Despite global alarm and diplomatic efforts to de-escalate Gaza hostilities, which US President Joe Biden said he hoped would end "sooner than later", hundreds of rockets again tore through the skies. Israel's air force launched multiple air strikes, targeting locations linked to Hamas, the group that controls Gaza.

The military escalation was triggered by weekend unrest at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound, which is sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

The disturbances, in which riot police had repeatedly clashed with Palestinians, has been driven by anger over the looming evictions of Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of east Jerusalem.

In another sign fighting could escalate further, Israel's defense minister approved the mobilization of 9,000 more reservist troops, and Israel's military spokesman said forces were massing on the border with the Gaza Strip. The Defense Ministry said Thursday that the latest mobilisation approved by Defense Minister Benny Gantz was an "exceptional call-up."

The military's chief spokesman, Brig. Gen. Hidai Zilberman, said forces were "preparing the option of a ground maneuver."

The military's chief spokesman, Brig. Gen. Hidai Zilberman, said forces were "preparing the option of a ground maneuver."

He told Israeli public television station Kan that tanks, armored personnel carriers and artillery were being readied "for this option for mobilization at any given moment."

But the level of forces was not believed to be strong enough yet for a possible ground invasion. *Agencies*

A somber Eid al-Fitr

Muslims celebrated Eid al-Fitr in a subdued mood for a second year Thursday as the pandemic again forced mosque closings and family separations on the holiday marking the end of Ramadan. In the Gaza Strip, the call to prayer echoed over pulverised buildings and heaps of rubble as Israeli warplanes continued to pound the territory in the worst outbreak of violence since the 2014 war. Hamas, the militant group ruling Gaza, urged the faithful to mark communal prayers inside their homes or the nearest mosques and avoid being out in the open. "It is all airstrikes, destruction and devastation," said Hassan Abu Shaaban, who tried to lighten the mood by passing out chocolates.

87 killed

in Gaza since Monday, -- including 18 children -- and more than 530 wounded as heavy bombardment has rocked the coastal enclave and brought down tower blocks. Islamic Jihad confirmed the deaths of seven militants, while Hamas has acknowledged 13 of its militants killed, including a senior commander. Israel says the number of militants dead is much higher. Seven people have been killed in Israel. Among them were a soldier killed by an anti-tank missile and a 6-year-old child hit in a rocket attack.

EXPRESS READ

US state offers $1 mn Covid vaccine lottery

As US officials scramble to convince citizens to get vaccinated against Covid-19, one state is putting its money where its mouth is -- offering millions in lottery prizes for those who have received an injection. Ohio governor Mike DeWine tweeted Wednesday that his state will give a $1 million prize away every week for five weeks in a lottery open to residents over the age of 18 who have received at least one dose of a Covid vaccine. The first winner will be announced on May 26. After that, a new winner will be drawn each Wednesday.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Koramangala Branch, 100 Feet Road, 4th Block Koramangala, Bangalore–560 034
M - 98456 15283, M-94835 20885
email:cb0885@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

1. Name of the Borrower: 1. Mohammed Javeed, No. 15, 10th Cross, Arafath Nagar, West of Padarayanapura, Bangalore- 560 026, **2. Khurshida Banu,** No. 15, 10th Cross, Arafath Nagar, West of Padarayanapura, Bangalore- 560 026,

S.No	Loan No.	Nature of Loan/Limit	Sanctioned Date	Amount (In Rs)
1	0885627000012	Housing Loan	12.10.2018	Rs.35,00,000.00

Liability as on date :Rs.36,50,033.63 together with further interest and incidental expenses
Schedule B : Immovable : Residential immovable property bearing No. 101/95, PID No. 33-96-95, Old BDA No. 101, situated at 1st B Main Road, Railway Line Pipe Line (RPC Layout) BBMP Ward No. 33, Bangalore measuring East to West 25 ft. and North to South 20 ft. in all measuring 500 ft. and bounded as : East by : Road, West by : Site No. 98, North by : Site No. 102, South by : Site No. 100.
Name of Title Holder: Mr. Mohammed Javeed, & Mrs. Khurshida Banu
Date of NPA: 13.04.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 03.05.2021**

2. Name of the Borrower: Mr. Mohammed Aslam, No. 53, 1st A Main, Old Guddadahalli,Vinayaka Nagar, Bangalore - 560 026. **Guarantors: 1) Mr. Mohammed Akram,** No. 53/2-1, 1st A Main, Old Guddadahalli,Vinayaka Nagar, Bangalore - 560 026. **2) Mr. Mohammed Ajmal,** No. 53/2-1, 1st A Main, Old Guddadahalli,Vinayaka Nagar, Bangalore - 560 026.

S.No	Loan No.	Nature of Loan/Limit	Sanctioned Date	Amount (In Rs)
1	0885619004684	Housing Loan	07.05.2016	Rs.69,00,000.00

Liability as on date :Rs.68,79,250.88 together with further interest and incidental expenses
Schedule B : Immovable : Residential property bearing No. 24/1, New Municipal No. 24/11, BBMP PID No. 42-61-24/11, sitauted at Nehru Road, Kuvempunagar, Bangalore limits of BBMP Ward No. 42, Bapuji Nagar, Bangalore measuring East to West 15 feet North to South 55 feet in all measuring 825 sq.ft. together with residential building constructed thereon.
Name of Title Holder: Mr. Mohammed Aslam, Mr. Mohammed Akram and Mr. Mohammed Ajmal.
Date of NPA: 10.02.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 07.05.2021**

3. Name of the Borrower: Mr. Gulzar Ahmad, No. 13 2 11th B Cross, Padarayanapura, Government Electric Factory, Bangalore- 560 026. **Guarantors : Mrs. Rifat Arshi,** No. 17, 4th Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Governemnt Electric Factory, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560 026.

S.No	Loan No.	Nature of Loan/Limit	Sanctioned Date	Amount (In Rs)
1	0885619004664	Housing Loan	19.09.2015	Rs.35,00,000.00

Liability as on date : Rs.35,79,234.67 together with further interest and incidental expenses.
Schedule B : Immovable : Residential property bearing vacant site earlier being No. 15, New Municipal No. 17, PID No. 43-17-17, New PID No. 136-W048-34, 4th Cross, Vinayakanagar, Ward No. 43, Padarayanapura, Bangalore measuring East to West 15 ft. North to South 60 ft. in all measuring 900 sq.ft. and entire site bounded on the : East by : Private property, West by : Remaining portion of property earlier bearing No. 15, North by : Conservancy, South by : Road.
Name of Title Holder: Mr. Gulzar Ahmad, and **Mrs. Rifat Arshi**
Date of NPA: 10.05.2021 **Demand Notice Date: 11.05.2021**

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on various dates mentioned as above. The Bank issued Registered notice to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Place : Bangalore **Sd/-**
Date: 13.05.2021 **Authorised Officer**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Bank of Baroda

Mayohall Branch (e-Vijaya Bank), PB No. 5118, Ground Floor, Public Utility Building, M G Road, Bangalore – 560 001.
Tel: 080-25588936 / 25587312 / 25594873,
E-mail: vjmayo@bankofbaroda.com

NOTICE TO GUARANTOR

(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

To,

1. Mr. G.P.Venkata Naidu, No.401. 4th floor, Arya Krishna Apartments, Kodigehalli Extension, Vidyaranyapura, Canara Bank Layout, BANGALORE – 560092
Also at : Mr. G.P.Venkata Naidu C/o M/s. Sai Automobiles,No.158/F, Cantonment, BELLARY, KARNATAKA

2. Mrs. G. MANOJA, W/o G.Jayaprakash, No.401. 4th floor, Arya Krishna Apartments, Kodigehalli Extension, Vidyaranyapura, Canara Bank Layout, BANGALORE – 560092
Also at : Mrs. G.Manoja W/o G.Jayaprakash, C/o M/s. Sai Automobiles, No.158/F, Cantonment, BELLARY, KARNATAKA

Dear sir/s

***Re:* Your guarantee for credit facilities granted to M/s. Sai Automobiles – CCH 73890500000035 (old ac no. 114606211000036), FITL 73890600000949 (old ac no. 114600327000002) and Term Loan 73890600000276 (old ac no. 114609041000040).**

1. As you are aware, you have, by a guarantee dated **10.04.2017 (for Term Loan) and dated 30.03.2019 (for CCH A/c.)** guaranteed payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities then or at any time thereafter owing or incurred to us by **M/s. Sai Automobiles – CCH 73890500000035 (old ac no. 114606211000036), FITL 73890600000949 (old ac no. 114600327000002) and Term Loan 73890600000276 (old ac no. 114609041000040).** for aggregate credit limits of **Rs. 8,75,93,738/-** with interest thereon more particularly set out in the said guarantee document. To secure the guarantee obligation you have also provided following securities to us:
1. Exclusive charge on all the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site No.727, in NTI layout, 2nd phase, Rajeev Gandhinagar, Bangalore, carved out of various Sy. Nos. of Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore -560092 in the name of G.P.Venkata Naidu, measuring East to West 50ft and North to South 80ft., in all measuring 4000sq.ft and bounded : East : Site No. 726, West : Site No.728, North : Site No. 722, South : Road.
2. Exclusive charge on all the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site No.726, in NTI layout, 2nd phase,Rajeev Gandhinagar, Bangalore, carved out of various Sy. Nos. of Kodigehalli, Kothihosahalli and Byatarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore -560092 in the name of G.P.Venkata Naidu, measuring East to West 50ft and North to South 80ft., in all measuring 4000sq.ft and bounded East : Site No. 725, West: Site No.727, North :Site No. 723, South : Road
3. Continuing security of all that piece and parcel of Converted Land (ALN(LAY) SR237/2008-09, SY No. 55/6, 54/2, 54/1&55/7, BBMP Khatha No.762/54/1, 54/2/55/4, 7 in the name G.P. Venkata Naidu situated at Jakkuru village, Yelahanka Hobli Bengalore – 560063 total land Measuring 28.5 guntas (7 guntas in Sy. No.55/6. 9 guntas in Sy.No.54/2, 1 guntas in Sy. No.54/1 and 11.5 guntas in Sy. No.55/7 total 28.5 guntas) i.e. 31036.5 sq. feet and RCC building consisting of Ground floor, First floor, Second floor, Third floor and terrace floor total built up area is 56958 sq. ft. (property already mortgaged to loan ac no. Term Loan (V-Rent) A/c. No. 73890600000505 (114608381000017) in the name of Mr. G.P.Venkata Naidu) East : Remaining portion of Sy. No. 55/6, 55/7, & 54/2,West : Remaining portion of Sy. No. 55/6, 55/7, & 54/2,North : Land belongs to Devaraj, ramanna, T S Krishnaiah, Ramakrishna, Narayan & Gopal, South :Sy. No. 53 & Land belonging to N Hanumaiah.
2. We have to inform you that the borrower has committed defaults in payment of his liabilities and consequently his account has been classified as non-performing asset. A copy of the notice dated **27.04.2021** under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 sent by us to the borrower is enclosed. Since the borrower has committed defaults, in terms of the guarantee you have become liable to pay to us the outstanding amount of loan/credit facilities aggregating **Rs. 8,59,24,757.00 (Rupees Eight crore fifty nine lakh twenty four thousand seven hundred fifty seven only), plus interest and applicable charges**, as stated in para 1 of notice dated **27.04.2021** served on the borrower (copy enclosed) and we hereby invoke the guarantee and call upon you to pay the said amount within 60 days from the date of this notice. Please note that interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 of the notice dated **27.04.2021** served on the borrower (copy enclosed).
3. We further wish to inform you that in regard to the security provided by you to secure your guarantee obligations for the due repayment of the loans and advances by the borrower, this notice of 60 days may please be treated as notice under sub-section(2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest upto the date of payment, we shall be at liberty to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which please note.
4. We invite your attention to sub-section(13) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13(13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.
5. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender/private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.
6. Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, in the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- M.B.RAJU,
Asst. General Manager
Authorised Officer.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 27.04.2021

NEPAL TURMOIL

Oli set to be reappointed PM, oppn fails to get majority

KATHMANDU

K P SHARMA OLI was set to be reappointed as Nepal Prime Minister as the Opposition alliance of Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) on Thursday failed to muster majority support to form the next government.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari had asked the Opposition parties to come up with the support of majority lawmakers to form a new government by 9 PM on Thursday after Oli lost a crucial trust vote in the House of Representatives on Monday.

However, as the deadline which ended at 9:00 pm on Thursday, the NC-Maoist Centre alliance has its hopes crashing down as disgruntled Nepal-Khanal faction of the ruling CPN-UML did not forward their resignation, which they had been claiming to do for long as a bargaining chip with embattled former PM Oli.

As the time accorded by the President gradually runs out and the deadline approaches, it can well be assumed that Oli is all set to make a comeback, emerging victorious in this Game of Thrones, as the country grapples with unprecedented rise in Covid-19 cases as the second wave of the pandemic rages on, The Himalayan Times newspaper commented. *PTI*

Fuel crunch in US persists after hack on major pipeline

CLEMMONS, N CAROLINA

Gas pumps remained shrouded by plastic bags Thursday at thousands of service stations across more than a dozen US states, despite a pipeline company's claims of "substantial progress" in restarting its supply line.

Nearly 70% of North Carolina's gas stations were still without fuel, as were about half the stations in South Carolina and Georgia, GasBuddy.com reported. Drivers on the East Coast were also having trouble, with more than half the stations tapped out in Virginia and Washington, D.C., the site's tracking service showed.

In a Thursday update, Georgia based-Colonial Pipeline said gasoline delivery is now underway in most of its markets.

The pipeline stretches from Texas to New Jersey, but the northeastern U.S. has seen fewer disruptions since those states are supplied more by other sources such as ocean tankers.

Gas is flowing again across most of the Deep South, and other parts that were offline in the Mid-Atlantic region were expected to become operational later Thursday, the company said. "We are not out of the woods yet, but the trees are thinning out," Richard Joswick, global head of oil analytics at S&P Global Platts said in an email.

He estimates that full recovery for the East Coast and Gulf Coast will take a couple of weeks at least due to lags and limits for all shipping options.

The cybersecurity attack on the Colonial Pipeline forced a temporary shutdown of the nation's largest fuel pipeline, prompting panic buying and long lines that quickly wiped out supplies around the southeastern U.S. The company resumed pipeline operations late Wednesday, but said it would take several days for deliveries to return to normal.

The governors of both North Carolina and Virginia declared states of emergency to help ensure access. *AP*

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd.(IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Name of the Borrower(s), /Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mr. Lakshmikant Kammar, Mrs. Rekha (**Prospect No. 724704**)	**11-May-2021 Rs. 30,92,574.00/-** (Rupees Thirty Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Four Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Eastern Portion of Site No-59, Serial Khatha No.115, Katha No.43, Assesment No. 43/2, admeasuring 940 Sft, Situated at Mallathahalli Village, 129th Ward, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore, Karnataka

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers. For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office : IIFL HFL "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/or Corporate Office : IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.
Place: Bangalore Date: 14.05.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd**

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. / Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	14211078/04.06.2021	PU Based	197 Sets	627600/-
	(2 Component) Sound Insulating Paints.			
2.	14211083/10.06.2021	1) Aluminium	50000 Kg.	352640/-
	Chequered Sheet 5X1000X2000MM To PL No. 35982020.			
	2) Aluminium Coil No. 2.5X1220MM To PL No. 91010895.		6853 Kg.	

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in**. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in** 2. Tenders will close at **14.25 HRS.** on due date and tender will be opened at **14.30 HRS.** Tenders **Sr. No. 1** & **2** will be open at RCF Kapurthala. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Help desk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF help desk at 011-23378658.
Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supply made by them. **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUMS

Bidders may please note the following changes against following **(1)** e-Tender No. **02211199** Due date on **31.05.2021. Item Description:** Feeder Junction Box for LHB Coach with BIO Toilet. **Quantity:** Existing **426 Sets** to be read as **601 Sets.** and **EMD Amount:** Existing **Rs. 549770/-** to be read as **Rs. 775610/-. (2)** e-Tender No. **12201216A** Due date on **19.05.2021, Description:** Water Tank Assly (03 Types) **Regarding:** Drawing, **Existing Entry:** LG63106ALTf (PL No. 33550300), LR631122 ALTe (PL No. 33550311), LG63105 ALT f (PL No. 33554663) to be read as **LG63106ALTg (PL No. 33550300), LR631122 ALTf (PL No. 33550311), LG63105 ALT g(PL No. 33554663)** respectively. **(3)** e-Tender No. **17211135** for Procurement of Set of Seats and Berths LHB coaches (Silicone Foam) Chair Car Coaches, **Due date:** Existing Entry 10.05.2021 to be read as **17.05.2021.** All other terms & conditions of the tender will remain un-changed. **PCMM**

No. : G-RCF/122-01/Stores/012/2021-22 **Dated: 13.05.2021**

1.16 lakh These many home loan borrowers whose housing projects were stalled due to last mile funding issues are likely to be benefited from the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Fund, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday.

A worker is seen working inside a silk mill amid the lockdown in Agartala | PTI

MORE RELIEF FOR MSMEs ON THE CARDS

The government is considering rolling out of a special credit window for small firms

ANURADHA SHUKLA @New Delhi

EVEN as there is no formal announcement of rolling out of a financial package immediately, the finance ministry is considering further relaxation of funding norms and credit for stressed small industries, according to officials.

"We have received a host of requests from small industries, which includes a loan moratorium for six months. While the central bank has already announced some measures such as restructuring, more measures especially for those MSMEs which are hit hard during regional lockdown are very much on cards," a senior finance ministry official said.

The official added that the measures under consideration are a special credit window for small firms, relaxation of certain criteria and expansion of the ambit of the existing credit guarantee scheme by including more sectors.

Mirco, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have already requested specific measures like waivers on electricity bills, tax and GST relief, along with collateral-free credit lines.

Last week, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had announced many measures to extend support to MSMEs and small businesses, including Resolution Framework 2.0 under which individuals and small businesses having exposure up to ₹25 crore can opt for loan restructuring if they had not availed the earlier scheme.

> **We have received a host of requests from small industries, which includes a loan moratorium for six months. The central bank has already announced some measures such as restructuring...**
>
> Finance ministry official

In case of those who had availed the loan restructuring under the earlier scheme, the RBI had permitted banks and lending institutions to modify the plans and increase the period of moratorium.

It added that the restructuring under the proposed framework may be invoked up to September 30, 2021, and would have to be implemented within 90 days after invocation.

These measures will provide short term relief, but with extension of localised lockdown beyond May small business owners are bound to face difficult times ahead. Even when the lockdown is not as strict as last year, the devastation in terms of human life may derail the nascent recovery which was visible in January and February of this year.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹972.55

Target Price ₹1,150

SBI LIFE

SBILIFE reported strong growth in the Individual Protection and Non-PAR/ Annuity businesses, while the ULIP business is also seeing recovery. We expect growth to revive from FY22E – we estimate APE growth of 25% for FY22E. We estimate VNB margins to reach ~24% by FY23E, enabling a 24% VNB CAGR and a ~17% EV CAGR over FY21–23E. Maintain BUY.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

Wadia Group-controlled GoAir rebranded as GoFirst ahead of IPO

ARSHAD KHAN @New Delhi

NO-FRILLS carrier GoAir has rebranded itself as "Go First" ahead of its proposed initial public offering (IPO). There is a strong buzz in the market that the Covid-19-hit airline will soon file its paper for an initial share sale to raise funds for its expansion plans.

On Thursday, GoAir said that the purpose of the revamp is to fully embrace the ultra-low-cost airline model to gain an advantage over its peers. The airline is aiming at young travellers with the rebrand.

"With the youngest average fleet among Indian LCC carriers, majority of which are A320 Neos, high-density seating, single aircraft type across its fleet, Go First is positioned to get ahead of its peer group by operating with ultra-low-cost. And it is this competitive advantage that enables it to offer its customers a combination of ultra-competitive fares and a safe flying experience" the airline said in a statement.

Expansion drive intact amid Covid-19

GoAir has been on course to raise funds to fuel its expansion. With its latest transformation, the airline is targeting the most price-sensitive leisure travellers.

An ultra-low cost carrier (ULCC) generally follows a very tight business model that results in lower ticket prices. Unlike a low cost carrier (LCC) such as IndiGo and SpiceJet, ULCCs have fewer amenities and most services come with a fee. "Even as the times continue to be extraordinary, Go First sees opportunities ahead. This rebranding reflects our confidence in the brighter tomorrow. The Go First Team will strive to deliver the brand and make "You Come First" a reality," said Kaushik Khona, CEO, Go First.

The rebranding comes at a time when the air passenger traffic in India has nosedived in the last one month due to second wave of infections, wiping out all possibilities of a recovery in near future. The impact of the second wave on the sector is such that there are speculations of a mass consolidation. Experts believe that except cash-rich IndiGo and Tata Group-Singapore International Airlines-backed Vistara, other players will have a hard time to survive this phase.

GoAir started operations in 2005 and had a 7.8 market share per cent in March 2021. Jeh Wadia, son of chairman Nusli Wadia had recently stepped down as its managing director and industry veteran Ben Baldanza, who once headed USA's Spirit Airlines, was roped in as vice-chairman.

TEAM CHANGE

TVS Motor rejigs top roles of Norton Motorcycle

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

TVS Motor (TVS) Company has appointed Robert Hentschel as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Vittorio Urciuoli as Chief Technical Officer (CTO) of Norton Motorcycle (Norton) as it aims to transform the 123-year-old marquee brand.

The Chennai-based automaker had acquired the British brand in April last year in an all-cash deal for ₹153 crore approximately. The move was seen as TVS' effort to increase its presence in the fast growing premium motorcycle segment. Notably, Norton makes retro style motorcycles and competes with the likes of Harley Davidson and Triumph, both the brands having an Indian connection. TVS' competitor Bajaj Auto had formed an alliance with UK's Triumph to develop mid-range Motorcycle and Hero MotorCorp operates Harley's India operation. While TVS has not announced its plans to launch Norton bikes in India yet, multiple reports suggest that the automaker might roll out at least four models in the country.

Hentschel and Urciuoli will take up their new positions as John Russell steps down from his role as interim CEO. Hentschel joins Norton from Valmet Automotive Holding GmbH & Co KG, where he has served as Managing Director since 2017. Vittorio Urciuoli's former key roles within the global automotive industry include Director of URVI LTD, Head of Powertrain at Lotus Cars and Project Leader at Ferrari and Aprilia Racing. "TVS has created a plan for Norton to transform into the future. The brand will retain its core values which will be interpreted in a modern way for the customers," said Sudarshan Venu, joint MD, TVS Motor.

Southeast Asian economies languish as Covid curbs linger

SUNITHA NATTI

IT'S as if Asian economies are struggling just to make it from one quarter to the next.

With countries coursing through second, third and fourth waves, albeit with brief periods of respite from coronavirus infections, economic rebound has never been closer and never further away.

Most Southeast Asian regions have enforced total or partial lockdowns and restrictions, which means respective annual GDP forecasts are often being revised mostly downwards and rarely upwards.

Take Thailand's central bank, which lowered 2021 GDP forecast to three per cent as against 3.2 per cent projected in December. As if on cue, Thailand's Ministry of Finance too lowered estimates from 4.5 per cent to 2.8 per cent.

Similarly, the two-week lockdown of the Philippine capital last month may slow growth to 6-7 per cent, as per its central bank. The Philippines has set a 6.5-7.5 per cent target, recovering from last year's record 9.5 per cent contraction. But latest data released Tuesday showed Q1 GDP shrinking 4.2 per cent, confirming fears that the economy will recover much slower than expected. It's the fifth consecutive quarter of negative GDP growth — making it the longest recession in recent times. But this is lower than Indonesia's 0.7 per cent contraction in Q1. The IMF, which lowered its 2021 growth forecast, is far less optimistic than the Indonesian government. In April, it lowered growth estimates to 4.3 per cent, lower than the government's projection of 4.5-5.3 per cent.

The situation in Bangladesh is no different. The second wave and fresh lockdown is threatening to shave off growth, now estimated at 5.5-6 per cent, while the Bangladesh government for a second time lowered estimates to 6.1 per cent as against its initial forecast of 8.2 per cent.

The alarming Covid-19 outbreaks have forced much smaller countries to take hard decisions. While Laos saw its biggest jump in infections since the beginning of the pandemic last month prompting a two-week lockdown in the capital Vientiane, Cambodia locked down its capital Phnom Penh besides others -- the impact of which will be visible in growth numbers.

The good news is, larger Asian peers seem to have broken the chain. While Japan, despite facing the fourth wave, anticipates a stronger economic recovery and has revised estimates upwards last month. Economy could now grow by 4 per cent, a notch higher than its previous forecast of 3.9 per cent made in January.

Ditto with South Korea. Its central bank Governor Lee Ju-yeol recently indicated that the 'mid-three per cent' growth was 'very possible', up from a previous forecast for three per cent growth. The IMF believes Singapore's economy has been recovering since the middle of last year and even though its economy shrank 5.4 per cent last year after a record contraction in the first half, it now expects 4-6 per cent or more growth this year.

EXPRESS READ

RBI cancels licence of United Co-operative

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bagnan, West Bengal, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on May 13, 2021, the RBI said in a statement on Thursday. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount in respect of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5 lakh from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961, it added.

Trai seeks view on 28-day prepaid plans

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) feels that certain plans, mainly the 28-day tariff plans, offered by telecom service providers (TSPs) are not to the satisfaction of consumers. As such, the telecom regulator has floated a discussion paper seeking views on whether to intervene in determining the validity period of telecom tariff offers or keep it under the forbearance regime.

Trai said it has received numerous complaints including ones where consumers said they were being made to do 13 recharges in a year for monthly plans, thus making them feel cheated.

"The TRAI has been receiving a lot of references from consumers regarding the offering of tariff by telecom service providers (TSPs) for 28 days instead of a monthly offering. The consumers have stated in their complaints that not only the same causes confusion but also they feel cheated. It also results in hardships for them as they need to make 13 recharges of the monthly prepaid tariff offering considering the validity period offered as 28 days instead of a month," the regulator said. It has fixed June 11 and June 25 as timelines for written comments.

The regulator has sought views on whether the specified validity span "should be 30 days or a month, with the requirement of tariff to be renewed only on the same date of each month. It has also invited views on whether separate tariff offers ought to be mandated for 29/30/31 days in addition to the present practice of offering them for 28 days. Trai, however, acknowledged that operators have been transparently disclosing the validity period.

Vedanta swings into black; posts ₹6,432 cr profit

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

ANIL Agarwal-led Vedanta Limited reported a consolidated net profit of ₹6,432 crore in the March quarter as against a net loss of ₹12,521 crore in the corresponding period last year on the back of increased sales and higher commodity prices. Net sales rose 24 per cent on a sequential basis to ₹27,874 crore in the period under review, the highest since the quarter ended March 2018. The growth was led by higher volume at aluminium business, zinc India, iron ore business, higher power sales at Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd and improved commodity prices.

"Our businesses have shown resilience in an uncertain market environment as we continue with our winning streak, reporting the highest ever quarterly EBITDA," said Sunil Duggal, Chief Executive Officer, Vedanta. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation or EBITDA increased 17 per cent to ₹9,037 crore.

YELLOW METAL

Covid 2.0-led disruptions may mean another muted Akshaya Tritiya

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

GIVEN the rising graph of coronavirus cases in many states, gold jewellers are staring at another year of subdued activity this Akshaya Tritiya.

The fledgling recovery in gold demand in the first three months of the year may be snuffed out with the renewed surge in Covid-19 infections and the consequent localised lockdown imposed in at least 22 states even as the demand-supply dynamics this year are very different unlike the last year when India announced a nationwide lockdown. Data from the World Gold Council (WGC) showed that demand for the yellow metal in the January-March quarter saw a growth of 37 per cent year-on-year at 140 tonne due to ease of restrictions, pent-up demand and softening of prices.

"Consumer demand, as compared to previous years, has taken a hit as stores are either closed or are operating only for a few hours because of the lockdown and restrictions across states," said Suvankar Sen, CEO, Senco Gold & Diamonds.

According to Pankaj Arora, national convener of All India Jewelers and Goldsmith Federation (AIJGF) "there were sales of more than ₹10,000 crore on this auspicious day in 2019, but last year on the same day due to the nationwide lockdown, sales stood at just ₹500 crore. With Akshya Tritiya falling in the lockdown period for two continuous years, the gold and jewellery trade has suffered a big setback," he added.

Somasundaram PR, managing director of WGC (India) believes that the second half of 2021 could see a rebound in demand. "First quarter demand was very good in spite increase in gold prices. But the disruption due to the pandemic may mean a muted Akshaya Tritiya. By June, however, things may become better," he added

Business & Beyond

Paramin receives Dadasaheb Phalke Award for best ad film

The 11th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival - 2021 award ceremony, which was held virtually this year, brought rays of smiles and cheers to film makers, musicians and advertising agencies. The management and employees of 'Paramin Advertising and Marketing Associates' saw their dreams realised when their Ad Film 'To Aapake Shahar Ki Baat' won 'Special Festival Mention (Ad)' Award.

IREDA bags "Green Urja Award"

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has been conferred with "Green Urja Award" for its pivotal and developmental in Green Energy Financing this year by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The award was received by Pradip Kumar Das, chairman & managing Director, IREDA from Ajay Mathur, director general, International Solar Alliance in the presence of Anil Razdan, chairman, ICC National Expert Committee on Energy in a virtual ceremony held on May 11. IREDA has ended 2020-21 on a strong note, disbursing loans worth ` 8,827 crore, the second highest from the date of inception.

SMC Power contributes ₹51 lakh to Odisha's CM relief fund

SMC Power Generation Limited, Jharsuguda has donated ` 51 lakh to Chief Minister's Relief Fund for strengthening its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. A cheque to this effect was handed over to the Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra IAS by SMC Power Generation Limited CMD Mulchand Agarwal and Executive Director JP Sharma.

IREDA and NHPC vaccinate over 300 staff

A two-day free Covid-19 vaccination camp was jointly organised by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and NHPC Ltd, central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power, for the 18-44 age group employees on May 7 and 8 at IREDA's Corporate Office, New Delhi. A total of 317 employees from IREDA, NHPC, Ministry of Power, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, MHA, PFC, REC, BHEL, etc got vaccinated.

IndianOil leverages assets, expertise to fight new wave

IndianOil Corporation has been leveraging its expertise and assets to combat the second Covid-19 wave. In the face of a massive demand surge for medical oxygen, IndianOil has diverted the high-purity oxygen used in its Mono Ethylene Glycol Unit to produce liquid medical oxygen (LMO) at the Panipat Refinery & Petrochemical Complex. It is now supplying 270 metric tonnes of LMO per day in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab.

City Union Bank donates ₹1 cr to fight Covid-19 on Tamil Nadu CM's appeal

The City Union Bank (CUB) has donated `1 crore to the State's Disaster Management Account based on the appeal made by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to fight Covid-19 as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility activity. CUB said the amount is in addition to the more than `1.37 crore donated after April 1, 2021, for tackling the second wave. The amount involves `94 lakh provided to Thanjavur Collector for purchasing oxygen flow meters.

Japan Doctors Union against Tokyo Olympics

Holding the Tokyo Olympics safely as the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage would be "impossible", a union of Japanese hospital doctors warned on Wednesday. "We strongly oppose holding the Tokyo Olympics at a time when people around the world are fighting the new coronavirus," the union said in a statement submitted to the government.

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

In just over 2 months, the first batch of Indian athletes will be leaving for Japanese shores from their respective training camps or exposure trips. Some, like India's shooting contingent, will depart for Tokyo from their base in Croatia. Some, like the men's hockey team, could go without no competition between now and the Games. **Swaroop Swaminathan** gives a lowdown on who is training where before Olympics...

Hockey | both men & women currently in SAI Bengaluru

It looks likely that both teams could land in Tokyo, play a few friendlies before their respective opening matches. HI is trying behind the scenes but with restrictions on travel in place, nobody knows if it will bear fruit. That Sultan Azlan Shah cancelled the invitation meet does not help.

- Next confirmed event: Olympics

Shooting | most currently in Croatia

After starting at an uncertain future, they will all be housed in Croatia for the next two months. What's even more significant is that there's going to be two tune-up events before the Games. The European Championships as well as a World Cup. .

- Next event: European C'ships

Wrestling | men's & women's, most of them in India

Most are in India. Just in terms if competition, most of them are ready because events, including some Olympic qualifiers, took place only a week or so ago. It's expected that a few, like Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, could take part in a ranking event in Poland before the Games.

- Next event: Poland ranking meet

Golf | men's & women's, taking part

With the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) not resuming anytime soon, it's a severe dent to the men's players who seemingly looked set to qualify. No Indian men's player is currently in the top 60 qualifying berth. However, it's marginally better in the women's section with Aditi Ashok in 44th place currently.

- Ranking events on till June

Badminton | both men & women in India

There are no more Olympic qualifying events scheduled. With the likes of Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth outside the qualifying berths, one hopes the BWF will show some leeway, from an Indian perspective. As things stands, only B Sai Praneeth and PV Sindhu have qualified in singles.

- Next confirmed event: Olympics

Athletics | men & women currently in India

Another disappointing development, travel restrictions skewered the relay teams' (men's and women's 4x400 and women's 4x100) chances of qualifying at the World Relays. Even the ones who have qualified are currently training in less than ideal conditions.

- Next confirmed event: Olympics

Boxing | men & women currently in India

One of the first Indian athletes to compete during the pandemic. They have had competitions in Turkey, Spain, Bulgaria, Germany, France. But it looks likely that they will fly directly to Tokyo from India. If the Asian Championships happen, that will prove to be a blessing for a team that's not had many high-level events.

- Next confirmed event: Olympics

Tennis | men's & women's, taking part

As it stands, Sania Mirza will feature in the women's doubles with Ankita Raina. Where it's interesting is the men's double section where both Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan, partnering different players, are striving for ranking points to make Tokyo cut. It doesn't look good because their combined ranking is way too high.

- Ranking events on till June

Sailing | men's & women's, right now in India

All the qualified Indian athletes are in the country but hope to be able to go to Europe for an exposure trip before the Olympics. It's already been cleared by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme but the Covid situation could yet change those plans.

- Next confirmed event: Olympics

SECOND INNINGS

Powar head coach of women's cricket team

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

TWO-AND-A-HALF-YEARS after the Committee of Administrators — then in charge of the BCCI — refused to offer Ramesh Powar an extension as head coach of the women's cricket team, he returned to the hot seat on Thursday.

Like Powar back in 2018, WV Raman, who guided the team to T20 World Cup final in 2020, has been unceremoniously dumped much to the surprise of the team. Powar will be the team's fourth coach in as many years.

The Cricket Advisory Committee of the BCCI comprising of Madan Lal, RP Singh, and Sulakshana Kulkarni recommended Powar after interviewing eight candidates. The BCCI had advertised for the position after Raman's tenure came to an end after the series against South Africa in March. All things had pointed to Raman being given an extension as the new requirement also needed the head coach to handle the women's A team as well as the U-19 side. Moreover, with the 50-over World Cup less than a year away, the players were keen on continuity, but the CAC seems to have thought otherwise.

The first signs of Raman not getting a new contract came from the selectors' camp when they asked the BCCI to have a rethink on the head coach after the defeat to South Africa at home. However, Raman and the team had very little time to prepare as it was their first series in over a year since the T20 World Cup final. In fact, the selectors had made it even more difficult for Raman by picking an under-strength side. Interestingly, among the last three coaches who have handled the women's team, Raman was popular among the players, who banked on his technical acumen. On Wednesday, the CAC's decision to interview Powar itself raised a few eyebrows, especially given the ugly episode between him and ODI captain Mithali Raj in 2018. Although Powar had little fault on his side, he was the one who got the boot.

It is understood that the CAC asked Powar about the episode during the interview. "He said 'he doesn't have any issue to work with anyone' and said he wasn't at fault," Lal said. "He spelled out his vision for the team, which we found to be the best," Lal said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Race walker Priyanka upbeat ahead of Tokyo challenge

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

WALKER Priyanka Goswami resumed training after recovering from Covid-19 in the last week of April. The Tokyo-bound athlete, under the watchful eyes of coach Gurmeet Singh, is currently focusing mostly on endurance, strength and technique. Spending around a fortnight in isolation in a single room at the Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru also meant missing out on quality training with the Olympics less than three months away.

"I had to stay in isolation after I tested positive, and that period, though very important health and safety wise, it was a kind of waste (as she missed training). The time that I lost during that period of my quarantine, I will not get it back. But, now, it is good, as I started to train after testing negative," Goswami told this daily.

Priyanka Goswami

Despite the drawback, one can sense an air of confidence in Goswami's voice, and there are reasons for it. She had 'very mild' symptoms so it did not affect her much and she got back to fitness quite quickly. Also, during the National Race Walking Championship at Ranchi in February, she ran an impressive 1:28: 45, which was a new national record in the 20km walk, helping her attain the Tokyo ticket as well. She is also the highest-ranked Indian (47) in the circuit. Bhawna Jat, who has also qualified in the same event, is ranked 125.

Her coach is sure that Goswami's timing is only going to improve in Tokyo. In fact, they are aiming for around 1:27:00, which could make her a podium finish contender. One look at Rio 2016, 1:28:42 was enough to fetch bronze and so was 1:27:12 (2008, bronze) in Beijing. But Priyanka is not thinking too much about it and does not want to take the pressure. "After that national record, I can say I am confident of doing well in Tokyo. But, there are a lot of things which need to work in your favour - weather, route and, luck also plays a part. Also, this is the first time, I will be going to the Olympics. I should not take the pressure, but I will be positive. I will go with good practice under my belt, and give my best," said the 25-year-old walker.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Atletico edge closer to La Liga title

AFP @ Madrid

ATLETICO Madrid held their nerve to beat Real Sociedad 2-1 on Wednesday and move within touching distance of winning La Liga. Yannick Carrasco and Angel Correa made a dominant first half count for Atletico, who retreated in the second and were left hanging on after Igor Zubeldia blasted in for La Real with seven minutes left.

Victory puts Atletico four points clear of Barcelona in the table and five ahead of Real Madrid, with Zinedine Zidane's side playing their game in hand away at Granada on Thursday.

Arsenal rock Chelsea

LONDON: Thomas Tuchel admitted Chelsea's 1-0 defeat against Arsenal was a "wake-up call" after Emile Smith Rowe punished Jorginho's blunder to dent the Blues' bid to finish in the Premier League's top four.

Midfielder Jorginho was guilty of a woefully misplaced back-pass that ended with Gunners youngster Smith Rowe slotting home early in the first half at Stamford Bridge.

CL final moved to Porto

PARIS: UEFA announced that the Champions League final between Manchester City and Chelsea had been moved from Istanbul to Porto. The match on May 29 has been switched to the Estadio do Dragao to allow English spectators to attend as travel between the UK and Turkey is suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Srihari, Sajan set to miss qualifying meet

VIVEK KRISHNAN @Chennai

IN a big blow for Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj, the Mare Nostrum meet in Monaco – an Olympic qualification event to be held on May 29 and 30 – will be out of bounds for him due to travel restrictions. Fellow swimmer Sajan Prakash, who is training in Dubai currently, is also unlikely to take part in the event given the quarantine norms in place.

Both Srihari and Sajan have achieved the B qualification mark for the Tokyo Olympics but need the A mark to seal direct qualification. The cut-off date for qualification is June 27. The other three Indian swimmers who have achieved the B qualification mark — Kushagra Rawat, Aryan Makhija and Advait Page — are training and participating in events in United States currently.

"The situation is grim. We were planning to send the swimmers for the Mare Nostrum Tour in Monaco at the end of May, but it is not possible for them to travel since the French government (swimmers will have to first reach France and then head to Monaco) is not allowing visitors from India," Swimming Federation of India (SFI) secretary Monal Chokshi told this daily on Thursday.

Srihari Nataraj (L) & Sajan Prakash

While Sajan can travel for the event from Dubai, the issue is the 10-day quarantine period for travellers coming from outside Europe. "Efforts are still on for Sajan to go, but it looks unlikely. We are trying to have the French govt waive the quarantine requirement. If it doesn't get waived, he also won't travel since quarantining affects the performance," the official informed.

To make matters worse for Srihari, he is unable to access the pool right now since he is in Bengaluru, where a strict lockdown is in place. With qualifying events in Turkey and Italy towards the end of June being the last chance for the swimmers to get direct entries, Chokshi is hopeful that the situation will improve next month. "If the Turkey and Italy events are not possible for Indian swimmers, we may host a trial event for Olympic hopefuls like Srihari, Sajan and SP Likith. The trial event will be done as an Olympic qualifying event approved by the International Swimming Federation (FINA). It would be a last resort," he said. Meanwhile, the senior nationals, which the federation was planning to host in June, has been postponed.

EXPRESS READ

Athletes retested for Covid at NCOE B'luru

CHENNAI: Five Olympic-bound athletes, including a prominent race walker, were retested for Covid-19 at NCOE in Bengaluru late on Wednesday. The retest was necessiated after all of them returned Covid positive in previous test. Earlier, a bunch of athletes camping at the centre returned positive. Later, all but one returned negative. The results of these five athletes are expected by Friday.

Tough day for Indians at British Masters

BELFRY (UK): Indian golfers, including Shubhankar Sharma and Ajeetesh Sandhu, endured a disappointing opening round at the Betfred British Masters and run the risk of missing the cut. Sharma (73) was the best among Indian at Tied-70, while Sandhu (74) who got into the field at the last moment, was T-94. SSP Chawrasia (75) was T-115 and Gaganjeet Bhullar (77) was T-140.

₹5L each for families of hockey stars

NEW DELHI: Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday announced financial support of `5 lakh each for the bereaved families of former hockey players MK Kaushik and Ravinder Pal Singh, who recently lost their lives to Covid-19. Both Kaushik and Singh were part of India's 1980 Olympic gold-winning team.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited for the supply of following item.
(1) 70708 – Purchase of Tyre in sets size 9.00 x 20-16PR

Note : For more details, log on to website https://mahatenders.gov.in.

PRO/AAM(M)/18/2021 GENERAL MANAGER

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, 8th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagara, Kanakanapalya, Bengaluru-560 011.
No: EE/CKP/E-PROC/03/2021-22 Date: 12.05.2021

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Single Cover & Two Cover)

The Executive Engineer (Chikkapete Division), BBMP Bengaluru Invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of work detailed in the table below. (STD-KW-1,2,3 & 4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimate Cost (₹. in Lakhs)
1	Construction of Multi-Purpose Building and Improvements to Surrounding Roads near KHB Colony in BTB area in Ward No-153. Jayanagara.	99.00
2	Beautification and Other Improvement works to BTB Area around Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue in Ward No-153 Jayanagara.	99.00
3	Exchange of Sanitary and Drinking Water Pipes and Providing Concrete to roads after the above work at Ward No - 143 Vishweshwarapuram.	99.90
4	Engaging Silt and Tractor in Ward No - 119 (4th Call) General	12.00
5	Engaging Silt and Tractor in Ward No - 118 (2nd Call) ST Only	12.00
6	Providing Borewell Maintenance and Water Pipelines in Ward No - 153 Jayanagara (ST Only)	10.00
7	Construction of Samudhaya Bhavana at BBMP Property in Gramadevatha Street Upparahalli in Ward No - 143 (SC Only) 2nd Call.	50.00
EMD (in ₹.)	EMD Exempted as per GOK order No: CE 675, Cost-12/2020, Bengaluru upto Dated: 22-12-2020 to 31-12-2021 only	

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 31.05.2021 upto 4:00 pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 26.05.2021 at 3:00 pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer (CKP), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Kanakanapalya, 8th Main, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560 011. (3) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is 31.05.2021 upto 4:00 pm. (4) Date of Technical Bid Opening of Tenders is on 01.06.2021 by 4:30 pm. (5) Date of Financial Bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical Bid Approval. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. : U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website : www.pspcl.in
Contact No. 96461-18754

Tender Enquiry No. 273/HPs/ED-I/S-400 dt.05.05-2021
SE/Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of CCTVs/Recorders at Joginder Nagar & Barot along with establishment of Control Room at Shanan, HEP, Joginder Nagar inlcusive of AMC.
For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 12.05.2021 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
227/C-188-21-5/13/2021
76155/12/253/2021/4536

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: RBNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.
Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.:03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)
Tenders under Two Part bidding system are invited from experienced, resourceful, reputed and bonafide Suppliers/Service Providers/Agencies/Contractors (as applicable) for the following:-
1. ANNUAL CIVIL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR TOWNSHIP AREA OF BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER No. 002/SAL/MMD-CIVIL/2021-22 [ESTIMATED COST – ₹ 94.54 LAKHS].
2. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND ALLIED SEWAGE NETWORK SYSTEM AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER No. 003/SAL/MMD-MAINT/2021-22 [ESTIMATED COST – ₹ 51.10 LAKHS].
Last date of submission of above tenders is 15.06.2021 by 11:30 hrs. For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit our website www.brbnmpl.co.in. Further extension or amendment/s, if any will be uploaded on our website only
General Manager

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ
DMA/2020-21/INDENT No.10986,10982,10980,10978 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-05-2021
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
E-PROCUREMENT OF KARNATAKA
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-05-2021 ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂಪಾಯಿ
1	ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ರಕ್ ಟಿಪ್ಪರ್ (Truck Tipper) ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent No.10986/Call-3)	7,693,000.00
2	ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಛೇದಕ ಯಂತ್ರ (Shredder machine) ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent No.10982/Call-2)	1,609,500.00
3	ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗ್ನಿಶಾಮಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಪಂಪ್ (Firefighting Pump) ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent No.10980/Call-4)	699,000.00
4	ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಘಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ದಹನಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು (Sanitory Incinerators) ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (Indent No.10978/Call-3)	264,320.00

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಮಂಗಳೂರು

QuoteExpress TRY TO BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE'S CLOUD) MAYA ANGELOU

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division No.5, Koujalagi -591227, Dist: Belgaum. Phone No. 08334 - 273244
No. KNNL/GRBCC-5/DB/ TND/2021-22/168 Date: 13-05-2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement only)
The Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division No.5, Koujalagi Invites Percentage rate tenders from the eligible Contractor registered in e-Procurement portal in Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division No.5, Koujalagi under Standard hole documents for a total of 3 works with maximum & minimum tender amount of Rs.122.30 Lakhs to Rs. 279.42 Lakhs respectively Tender receipt Date is on 13.05.2021 to 24.05.2021 upto 04.00 PM and Tender Opening Date is on 26.05.2021 at 11.00 AM, for more information contact the office of the undersigned and website is as: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in after 13.05.2021.
Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division No.5, Koujalagi
DIPO/BGM/RONO.81/21-22

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN NO.:U85110KA1970SGC001919
Tender No. KPCL/2020-21/PS/WORK_INDENT10915/CALL-2 Dated:11.05.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement portal only)
Name of work: **"Pressure Testing, Refilling and painting of 45 Nos. CO2 Cylinders of unit-1 & 2 Generator Fire Protection System and spare cylinders".** Last date and time for submission of completed bids (2 Covers) : **25.05.2021 up to 13:00 Hrs.** Date of opening of Cover-1: **26.05.2021 at 13:15 Hrs.** Date of opening of Cover-2 (price bids) of qualified bidders: **27.05.2021 at 13:30 Hrs** or at a date which will be intimated later. Further details can be had from the Office of the **Executive Engineer (O&M) GDPH, KPCL, Hidkal Dam-591107** during working hours. Phone/FaxNo.08333-263246, email:eeegdphkpcl@gmail.com, website:www.karnatakapower.com

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION
1, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj-211001
E-Tender Notice No.: CORE/S 03195009 Dated: 13.05.2021

E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, PCMM, Central Organization for Railway Electrification, Prayagraj, invites following Reverse Auction E-TENDER:-
E-tender No.: 03195009, Brief Description: Un-insulated Cadmium Copper Catenary Wire, 65 sq.mm. (19/2.10 mm) as per RDSO Spec. TI/SPC/OHE/CAT (Cu-CD)/0971

Quantity IN Mt	Tender Due Date	Tender Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)
1822.00	15.06.2021	Nil	₹ 50,00,000/-

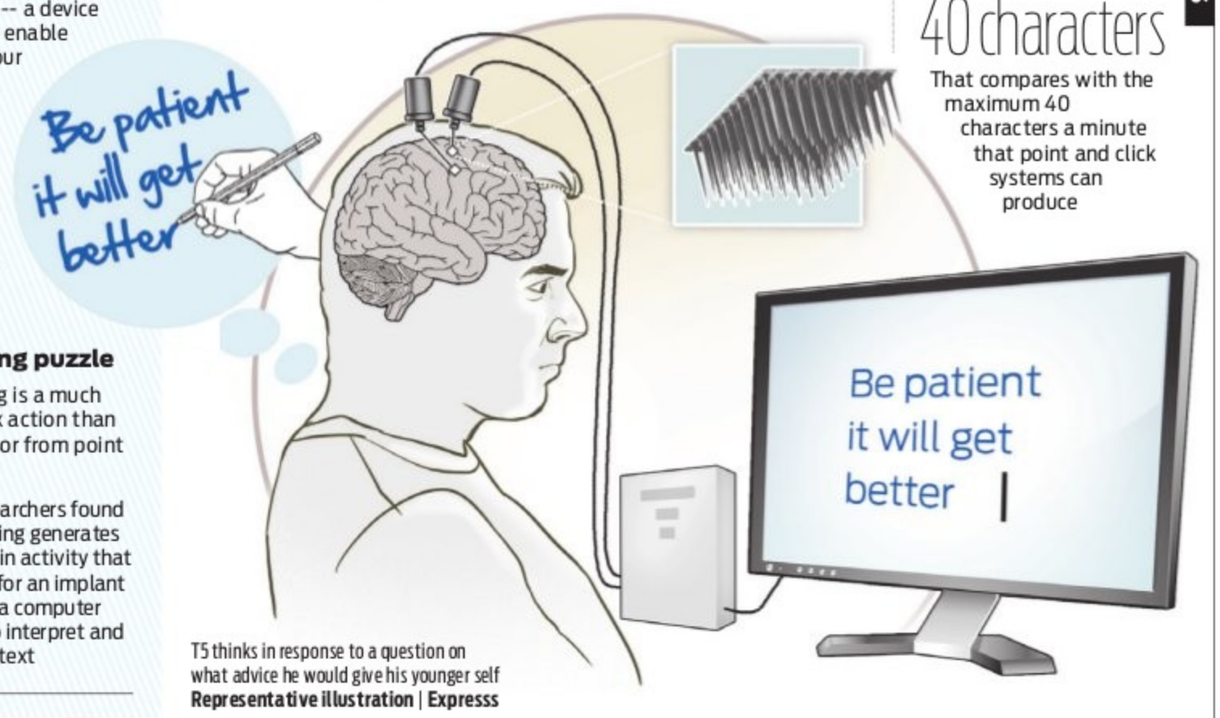
Note:1. The complete information of above E-Tender and Tender document are available on IREPS website i.e. http://www.ireps.gov.in. 2. Only E-Bids shall be accepted against above Tender. The e-bids may be submitted before 11.00 hrs on tender opening date. 3. Procurement policy: Bulk purchase will be made only from those firms who have been approved by RDSO for the tendered item on opening date. 4. Bidding System:-Reverse Auction (Two Packet System) 5. In case of any technical difficulty, helpdesk of CRIS/New Delhi may be approached. The Telephone numbers are:- 011-24105180, 24102855, 24100746, 24671469.
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Central Organization Railway Electrification, Prayagraj
FOR & ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA
No. PR/19/2021
R.D. Adv
"Serving Customers with a Smile"

Elon Musk's SpaceX announced that Google would team up with its Starlink satellite internet service to deliver cloud computing services to business customers. Under the partnership, SpaceX will place its Starlink ground stations within Google data center properties, which can help the service support businesses requiring cloud-based applications.

EXFILE • RESEARCH

Brain implant lets paralysed man write with his mind

Paralysed from the neck down, the man stares intently at a screen. As he imagines handwriting letters, they appear before him as typed text thanks to a new brain implant, the product of new research that can benefit people suffering spinal cord injuries strokes or motor neurone disease



T5 thinks in response to a question on what advice he would give his younger self
Representative illustration | Expresss

THE RESULTS

18 words/min

Over time, T5 was able to produce 90 characters or about 18 words a minute when copying sentences, and around 74 characters or 15 words a minute when replying to questions

40 characters

That compares with the maximum 40 characters a minute that point and click systems can produce

HOW THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED

T5 subject | The research involved a man nicknamed T5 who was paralysed from the neck down after a spinal cord injury in 2007

1. He was fitted with two aspirin-sized brain-computer interface (BCI) chips on the left side of his brain that could detect neurons firing in the motor cortex that governs hand movement
2. Sensors transmitted the signals to a computer for translation by an artificial intelligence algorithm into typed text
3. The next step was to determine whether T5 even produced distinctive and readable brain activity when imagining writing, given the many years since his injury. And once that activity was detected, the algorithm had to be trained to recognise and interpret the thoughts, a process that took nine days over a six-week period
4. T5 painstakingly imagined handwriting individual letters and copying out sentences so the programme could identify which brain activity patterns indicated which letter

REVIEW

- Writing in a review commissioned by Nature, Pavithra Rajeswaran and Amy Orsborn of the University of Washington's bioengineering department called the work a "milestone"
- "The authors' approach has brought neural interfaces that allow rapid communication much closer to a practical reality," they wrote. But they cautioned that further testing and refinement is still needed

Texting speed

- The 65-year-old is "typing" at a speed similar to his peers tapping on a smartphone, using a device that could one day help paralysed people communicate quickly and easily.
- "Imagine if you could only move your eyes up and down but couldn't move anything else -- a device like this could enable you to type your thoughts at speeds that are comparable to that of normal handwriting or typing on a smartphone," he said

Handwriting puzzle

- Handwriting is a much more complex action than moving a cursor from point to point
- But the researchers found that handwriting generates distinctive brain activity that proved easier for an implant to detect and a computer programme to interpret and translate into text

Existing tech

- Existing devices for those with paralysis rely on eye movement or imagining moving a cursor to point and click on letters
- But Willett and his team wondered whether thinking about handwriting letters might be another way for people to express themselves

NOW, WEALTHY NATIONS LAG IN VACCINATION DRIVE

Pacific countries rank worst among those vaccinated as some countries point fingers at tight policies of US, Europe governments

HEALTH

WELLINGTON: Some wealthy nations that were most praised last year for controlling the coronavirus are now lagging far behind in getting their people vaccinated ' and some, especially in Asia, are seeing COVID-19 cases grow.

In Japan, South Korea and New Zealand, the vaccination rates are languishing in the single figures. That is in sharp contrast to the US, where nearly half of all people have gotten at least one shot, and Britain and Israel, where rates are even higher.

Not only do those three Pacific countries rank worst among all developed nations in vaccinating against COVID-19, they also rank below many developing countries such as Brazil and India, according to national figures and the online scientific publication Our World in Data.

Australia, which isn't providing a full breakdown of its vaccination numbers, is also performing comparatively poorly, as are several other places initially considered standout successes in battling the virus, including Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan.

That could change as vaccination campaigns gather pace and supplies loosen. But meanwhile, previously successful countries are being left exposed to the virus and face longer delays in reopening to the world.

Japan, for instance, has fully vaccinated only about 1% of its population and is facing a significant new outbreak just 10 weeks before it is to host the already delayed Olympic Games ' although without spectators from abroad. The government last week announced an extension of a state of emergency through the end of the month and confirmed more than 7,000 new cases on Saturday alone, the highest daily number since January.

Vaccination drive has not picked up in developed countries like Japan and S Korea

Bureaucracy has been part of the problem. Countries that faced mounting death tolls from the virus often threw out the rulebook, rushing through emergency vaccine approvals and delaying second shots past the recommended timeline in order to maximize the number getting their first.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu personally negotiated with Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla to get early access to vaccines, and called in the military to get them in people's arms. In the US, some groups handed out doughnuts, free drinks and even marijuana to get people to roll up their sleeves.

Worried about possible shortages, South Korea's PM Chung Sye-kyun and other officials began pointing fingers at measures taken by the US, Europe and India to tighten controls on vaccine exports

Japan went through a more traditional approval process that required an extra layer of clinical testing for vaccines that had already been tested elsewhere and were being widely used. And once it did start getting shots, Japan faced a shortage of people to administer them. Under the conservative medical culture, people only trust doctors and nurses enough to do so.

Dentists are willing to help and are authorized, but have not been called upon. Getting shots from pharmacists at drug stores like in the U.S. or from volunteers with no medical background other than a brief training like in Britain remains unthinkable in Japan.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Ola EV service launched in UK

TECHNOLOGY

For a greener and more sustainable future, ride-hailing major Ola on Thursday launched a new electric vehicle category on its ride-hailing platform, which will allow riders to specifically book rides in a fully electric vehicle in the UK. The category, called Ola EV, is a global first for Ola and will be available across London from May 13. Over time will roll out to other cities around the world where Ola is operational, the company said in a statement. The Ola EV category will cost riders the same as a comfort category on the Ola app. Ola EV has 700 drivers across London and is expected to grow. Ola will offer a market-leading 0 per cent commission rate for the first 3 months.

Robot dog gets to work

ROBOTICS

Deep underground in eastern France, a four-legged bundle of energy named Scar steps gingerly through vast caverns, loaded with sensors for taking measures in places where humans might fear to tread. It's an ideal training ground for Scar, a robotic "dog" being groomed by researchers at the Ecole des Mines engineering school in Nancy. Its name is a French acronym for "Advanced Robotic Assistance System", and the Ecole des Mines was the first in France to purchase the Spot robot from the US firm Boston Dynamics last September. A team from university tested Scar's abilities at Cigeo lab 1,600 ft below Bure village.

CUB MEMBERSHIP

Siberian tiger cubs in a playful mood at the Kecskemet Zoo in Kecskemet, Hungary, on TYhursday | AP

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The Coming Wave
..and how to brace for it

Keeping His Word

REVIEW
MONSTER

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Timeless Tales that Sparkle and Shine

A Brave New Swirl

AMMASPEAK

Advaita Needs to be Practiced

VOICES
Sheila Kumar
S Vaidhyasubramaniam
Anuja Chandramouli
Shinie Antony
Madhulika Liddle

Sugarless Sweetheart

Facing It with Stones

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

STAY HOME STAY SAFE

As COVID continues its onslaught, our homes are the safe havens for us to stay in and be protected. Step out only for supplies and also limit those occasions to the bare minimum. A regular inventory check will help in planning for the week. Stay home and lend your support!

Sanitize frequently
Wear a Mask
Maintain social distancing

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS | THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | The MORNING STANDARD | THE SUNDAY STANDARD
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